

British envoys in Iran shred official papers

Howe expels five-man staff of consulate

From Robert Fisk in Bahrain, Nicholas Beeston in London and Ian Smith in Manchester

British diplomats in Tehran were last night destroying their embassy documents, including commercial letters and papers, in case the Iranians respond to the closure of their consulate in Manchester by forcing their way into the British compound and seizing the embassy buildings and their contents.

British officials last night refused to give any details of the security measures they were taking and referred all callers to the Foreign Office in London, but other Western embassies confirm that the British — mindful

of the piles of documents discovered when the US embassy in Tehran was stormed by Iranians in 1979 — were destroying a considerable quantity of their files and archives.

The Americans were deeply embarrassed after the takeover of their embassy by the

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vast amount of confidential material which the Iranians not only pieced together but later published in up to 15 volumes.

Officials of the British interests section in Tehran were last night expecting Iran to order at least five of them (perhaps double that number) out of the country in retaliation for the Government's decision to close the Iranian consulate-general in Manchester and expel its five-man staff.

The expected "tit-for-tat" reaction in Iran, followed a "tough but measured" decision yesterday by an impatient Foreign Office, which waited seven days in vain for an explanation into the abduction of and assault on its First Secretary in Tehran, Mr Edward Chaplin.

The five diplomats, who must leave the country by June 10, include Mr Ahmad Ghassemi, whose arrest by police in Manchester for shoplifting in thought to have prompted the kidnapping of Mr Chaplin. Charges against Mr Ghassemi were dropped in the public interest by the Attorney General, Sir Michael Havers QC.

Yesterday the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, told reporters: "We did not want a shoplifting incident in Manchester to blow up into this kind of thing. It is the Iranians who have brought this upon themselves by the actions which they have taken in Tehran."

Sir Geoffrey and his Foreign Office advisers decided on what action to take, although the Downing Street and the

Prime Minister were consulted and are being kept informed of any developments.

Sir Geoffrey's decision was spelt out by the Foreign Office Permanent Under-Secretary, Sir Patrick Wright, when he summoned the Iranian chargé d'affaires to London, Mr Mohammad Mahdi Akhund-Zadeh Basti, yesterday morning.

Sir Patrick told the Iranian envoy that no explanation or apology had been given by his government over the Chaplin incident. In addition the charges against Mr Chaplin had not been withdrawn and no assurances had been made that he would be protected under diplomatic immunity by the Vienna Convention.

Foreign Office sources said Mr Basti was "surprised and shocked", but that at the time he made no protest.

Sir Patrick warned him that "any tit-for-tat retaliation would be totally unjustified and would give rise to further serious consequences for UK-Iranian relations."

Mr Basti said after the meeting that the British decision was "very, very serious" and predicted Tehran would respond with counter-measures in "three or four days".

A diplomatic source implied that if Tehran did retaliate, Britain was prepared to take further action against its "charge d'affaires and embassy here."

The Iranians and their families being expelled are: the former consul-general, Mr Seyed Ali Tabaghoghi Mehri, his wife, daughter and son; the consul-general, Mr Mohammad Taghi Mousavi, his wife, two daughters and son; the vice-consul, Mr Mohammad Reza Barakati and his wife; Mr Ghassemi, his wife and son; and an accountant, Mr Mohammad Reza Shalchian Tabrizi, his wife and three sons.

In Manchester, staff at the Iranian consulate were stunned by the news and an official

Continued on page 20, col 5

Latest poll shows Tories 10 points ahead

Thatcher and Kinnock fight on personalities

By Robin Oakley, Richard Evans and Nicholas Wood

Six days from polling day in an election which is becoming a far closer contest than had been anticipated, Mr Neil Kinnock and Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday turned the campaign into a presidential contest between their highly contrasting personal styles and beliefs.

Mrs Thatcher set out her political credo of choice and opportunity in an impassioned answer to a question at the daily Conservative press conference.

Mr Kinnock claimed in a radio interview that in tackling Labour's Militants he had proved himself the toughest politician in Britain today.

Meanwhile, City prices plummeted in the face of rumours that the Marplan opinion poll to be published in today's *Guardian* would show the gap between Conservatives and Labour narrowed to 2 per cent.

In the event, the poll showed support for the parties virtually unchanged over the past week at Conservatives 44 per cent, Labour 34 per cent, Alliance 20 per cent and Others 2 per cent.

The comfortable 10 per cent lead, with the Conservatives well over the 40 per cent needed to keep them clear of any prospect of a hung Parliament, will have come as a considerable relief to the Tory high command after the feverish atmosphere that had been building up.

At the time that the rumours were circulating in the

City yesterday, Marplan said that it had not even received the raw data of the poll.

The Prime Minister plans to take a more prominent role in the final campaign days, contrasting her record as a world leader with the inexperience of Mr Kinnock.

On Monday she goes to the Venice summit for a day of discussions with President Reagan and other world leaders.

As in the 1983 election campaign, she has reserved a

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battery of radio and television, interviews for the last days. Earlier, Mrs Thatcher had been deliberately rationing her appearances.

There had been no panic stations in Conservative Central Office. Only one poll throughout the entire election campaign has suggested that the Conservatives could come close to losing their majority.

But there had been some concern at the trend of recent polls. The nervousness began to show when it emerged that a series of advertisements prepared by Saatchi and Saatchi for the final week has been rejected by the Conservatives and scrapped.

Mrs Thatcher's soul-bearing was triggered by a questioner who suggested the Government had divided Britain

Continued on page 20, col 1



Return to Merseyside for Mr Michael Heseltine, the former Secretary of State for the Environment, campaigning with outside rosette in Ormskirk yesterday.

University faces cash 'disaster'

By Our Education Correspondent

Aberdeen University's future appeared to be in the balance yesterday after its appeal for a grant increase had been brusquely rejected by the University Grants Committee.

In a letter to Professor George McNicol, the Principal of Aberdeen, Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, the chairman of the committee, described the university's appeal as a "waste of time" and "unrealistic". He accused Aberdeen of trying to avoid facing the future.

Aberdeen receives an annual grant of about £22 million which is due to be reduced by £2.5 million by 1990. By then it will be facing an estimated cumulative deficit of between £8.5 million and £13.5 million.

Professor McNicol told the committee that this spent disaster. The university would have to shed 150 of its 560 lecturers and 10 per cent of its students. "We appear to confront a doomday scenario, a progressive downhill spiral," he said. Professor McNicol asked the UGC for an increase in grant in each of the next three years, rising to an extra £2.5 million by 1990.

In his letter released yesterday, Sir Peter says Aberdeen has not even attempted to accommodate itself to the higher education cuts.

University science, page 12

Indian planes drop relief supplies over rebel-held Jaffna

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo

India tightened the screws further on its island neighbour Sri Lanka with an aerial "relief offensive" yesterday, dropping supplies over the rebel-dominated Jaffna peninsula.

Five Russian-built Antonov 22 transport planes carrying the supplies were escorted into Sri Lankan air space by four Mirage 2000 jet fighters to make the air drop. They took off from the south Indian city of Bangalore.

The Indians have thus regained the face they lost when their fishing boat flotilla was turned back the previous night by the Sri Lankan Navy. But as a result relations between the two members of the South Asian Co-operation have reached their lowest level since they each gained independence from Britain 40 years ago.

The Foreign Ministry in Colombo complained bitterly of India's violation of Sri Lankan sovereignty, pointing out that it does not have the military capability to resist such an intrusion. An official accused the Indians of resorting to bullying tactics against its small neighbour.

Another Foreign Ministry official remarked: "There was not much we could do about the raid. We were hoping the sacks of salt would fall on the

Labour 'tax grab' to start at £15,000

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Families earning more than £15,000 a year would have to pay higher taxes under Labour's plans for reform of the tax and benefits system. Mr Neil Kinnock disclosed yesterday.

The new break-even point, markedly lower than the £26,000-a-year salary level stated until now, was immediately seized on by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr Lawson said that, if the pledge to reverse the 2p tax cut made in the Budget was included, 22 million people would be caught in the Opposition's "swinging tax grab".

He said: "Labour's tax plans are peeling away as they are slowly being exposed to public scrutiny."

Continued on page 20, col 1

Kohl gets backing on missiles

From John England Bonn

Chancellor Kohl of West Germany, with Bonn's answer to the Soviet "double zero" offer on Euro-missiles finally on the table after Bundestag approval of it yesterday, will now be able to look President Reagan in the eye at the Western economic summit in Venice on Monday.

Herr Kohl has hedged his bets by excluding West Germany's 72 Pershing 1A missiles from the super-powers' negotiations in Geneva and called on them to widen their talks to cover conventional forces, chemical weapons and strategic nuclear missiles.

The centre-right Government's numbers in the Bonn Parliament ensured that its compromise agreement of the double zero offer, reached only last Monday after weeks of a deep split between the liberals and the two conservative parties, would go through. The vote was 232 to 189 in favour.

Right-wing hardliners among Herr Kohl's Christian Democrats and Herr Franz Josef Strauss, the Bavarian conservative leader, however, still say that a missiles deal would lead to a decoupling of the United States from Europe.

Bundestag approval, page 7
Leading article, page 13

IN PART 2

Insider charge

The US Securities and Exchange Commission has announced a \$25 million settlement against Kidder Peabody; the securities house charged in the government's insider trading inquiry.....Page 21

Robinson's 62

Tim Robinson scored an unbeaten 62 as England reached 145 for three in the first Test against Pakistan
John Woodcock, page 34

Portfolio

Two readers shared the Times Portfolio Gold daily competition prize of £4,000 yesterday. Details, page 3.
Portfolio list, page 25.

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Higher foreign profits improve trade position

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain's balance of trade deficit for last year, originally estimated at £1.1 billion, has been virtually eliminated by the discovery of more buoyant earnings from abroad.

The sharp revision of the figures means Britain went through last year's oil price collapse without a significant dip into deficit on current account.

Net earnings on invisibles last year were over £8 billion, according to the latest estimates, which were boosted by new information on the profits of foreign subsidiaries of British companies. The current account deficit for last

year is now put at £120 million.

British industry plans to increase investment by 8 per cent this year and next, according to the latest Department of Trade and Industry investment intentions survey. Manufacturing will invest 4 per cent more this year, double the increase projected six months ago.

Although selling pressure was light, share prices suffered another setback on the Stock Market yesterday which was worried by fresh stories of a new opinion poll showing the Conservative lead being eroded.

Hunt for beer attackers

Espos police are investigating a Derby day incident in which beer and a can were thrown at three jockeys riding in the last race on the card.

The jockeys involved, Tony Ives, Pat Eddery and Michael Hills, got a soaking but were not hurt.

Report, page 34

Drug claimed to halt Aids

By Robert Matthews

Scientists at Hammersmith Hospital, west London, claim to have found out how human cells are killed by the Aids virus and to have discovered a compound capable of stopping it.

The compound, which is to go on trial with 40 Aids victims by the end of the month, may be on the market in 18 months' time.

According to Dr Christopher Wood, one of the research team at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School at the Hammersmith which made the discovery, the com-

ound also appears to halt the spread of many cancers.

Unlike most researchers in the field, the Hammersmith team claims that the key to the development of Aids and cancer lies in the walls of cells.

Cell membranes consist of two layers of fat, with protein locked in between. Dr Wood and his colleagues have found that patients with Aids and cancer have cell walls which consist of a larger than normal proportion of unsaturated fats; that makes the cell membrane weaker than normal.

The Hammersmith team thinks that the Aids virus can bring about that weakening.

Brain drug trials, page 3

Secret £62,500 drinkers at Fortnum & Mason

By Robin Young

Four former public schoolboys employed by the Queen's grocers, Fortnum & Mason, have been dismissed and are likely to face charges after allegedly drinking their way through £62,500 of the shop's stock of fine wines and brandies.

Every week for a year the quartet were able to go through drink worth around £1,200 without once getting so drunk that they risked detection.

They did it largely in their lunch hours and tea-breaks, drinking out of paper cups.

In Fortnum's newly refurbished ground floor food hall the wine department is a star attraction, with exquisite vintages displayed on gently sloping racks under subdued lighting.

The company seems to have been oblivious to the fact that in the premises' darker corners some of their staff were unconsciously upending the bottles completely.

Police were only called in when the annual stock taking revealed an unexpectedly large deficiency in some of the wine list's priciest items. Like their customers, the four staff members opted for quality in preference to quantity.

They apparently concentrated on Fortnum's comprehensive selection of champagnes, which fill two pages of the wine list and were priced up to £121 a bottle.

They took their toll of the vintage clarets, where Fortnum's had Château Pétrus 1978 at £204 and Château

Latour 1961 at £285 a bottle and steadily depleted the historic selection of vintage Samalens Fine Bas Armagnacs which used to run back to the 1888 priced at £205 (Fortnum's now lists nothing older than the 1955 at £44.80), and Casterade 1914 at £218.

They also had their choice of Domaine de la Romanée Conti grand cru burgundies, such as La Tâche 1982 at £69, finest vintage ports (Taylor 1948 at £128), and German dessert wines such as 1976 Erbacher Marobrunn Riesling Trockenbeerenauslese, Schloss Reinhartshausen, priced at about £130.

Then there were 30 cognacs (up to Martell Cordon d'Argent Extra at nearly £75 a bottle and Hennessy Paradis at £112.50) and, if they

fancied mixing their drinks, *creme de fraiche* at more than £17 a bottle.

Police say that the four men interviewed did not take any drink away to sell for profit.

Fortnum's management is understandably embarrassed. It is in the middle of a champagne promotion, for which the brochure boasts: "Until the 20th June 1987, a veritable sea of champagne flows through the doors of Fortnum's".

Yesterday the press officer was away until Monday, and in the wine department a young lady said: "We are between staffs at the moment. Some of the former personnel do not work here any longer, and have not yet been replaced. For the time being I am in charge."

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NEWS SUMMARY

Ratepayers gain rates rise review

Waltham Forest ratepayers won the right in the High Court yesterday to challenge a 62 per cent rate rise in the Labour controlled north-east London borough.

Mr Justice Macpherson gave them leave to seek judicial review of the decision which has been branded "outrageous" by the Waltham Forest Ratepayers Action Group which is bringing the action. The rise will make Waltham Forest the highest rated borough in London.

Mr James Wadsworth, QC, for the action group, told the judge the decision had even been criticized by three Labour councillors who voted for it.

The judge said he was satisfied there was a case for the council to answer and gave leave for the 31 Labour councillors to be made defendants to the action.

Radio ruling

The Department of Trade's powers to close pirate radio stations were drastically cut by a House of Lords ruling yesterday.

Five Law Lords unanimously dismissed an appeal by the Department of Trade and Industry and ruled that it did not have the power to confiscate records and tapes.

They upheld a Court of Appeal ruling in favour of Mr Jeffrey Rudd, of Finchley Road, Anfield, Liverpool, that forfeiture was wrong because records and tapes were not broadcasting "apparatus".

Law Report, page 17

Suicide by nails

An unemployed labourer killed himself by hammering two five-inch nails into his head, a Nottingham inquest was told yesterday.

Dennis Robert Widdison, aged 61, who was found unconscious in the kitchen of his home at Newark, Nottinghamshire, last month, died shortly after being admitted to hospital.

Mr John Langham, the Nottinghamshire coroner, who recorded a suicide verdict, said that it was the first case on record of a man taking his life in such a manner.

Worker shares snags

Profit sharing and share ownership for workers have made little impact on industrial relations, employee participation, and patterns of ownership, says Glasgow University's Centre for Research into Industrial Democracy and Participation.

A study finds that the schemes seldom involve trade unions, few are negotiated and even fewer are subject to employee consultation.

It adds that it is difficult to see why tax benefits proposed by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, are needed, given the popularity of cash based schemes, particularly among smaller firms.

Sizewell go-ahead

Sizewell B. Britain's first pressurized water reactor, was given the all clear yesterday by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, three months after its approval by the Government.

The Health and Safety Executive gave the go-ahead for the first stage of construction, an £8 million wall around the site in Suffolk to protect it against erosion.

Aspokesman said consent to proceed with the next five stages of construction would be given only provided all safety requirements were met.

'Spied' at the MoD

An unemployed man walked unnoticed into the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall because he was interested in spy stories and wanted to see what went on, Bow Street magistrates heard yesterday.

Floyd Stevenson, aged 25, of Kintyre Court, New Park Road, Brixton, south-west London, was searched, and an envelope containing Arabian currency found.

Stevenson, who admitted stealing it, was remanded on bail until July 2 for medical and social inquiries.

Musicians' contracts

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra yesterday announced that from September next year its musicians would have a guaranteed salary and four-month contracts. Mr Ian MacLay, managing director, will form a new, more commercial Royal Philharmonic Pops Orchestra to help to fund the move. Estimating the cost at an additional £250,000, he said: "This marks a radical change in approach".

Until now, musicians have been paid only for sessions they worked and they increased their incomes through freelance jobs. Andre Previn, the orchestra's principal conductor, claimed last year that London's musicians were the lowest paid in the civilised world.

Stunt pilot shows smooth landing style



Brendan O'Brien, a professional display pilot, yesterday landed his Piper Super Cub aircraft on the specially reinforced roof of a moving lorry at Biggin Hill airfield in Kent to demonstrate a manoeuvre that he will be repeating at the international air fair which starts tomorrow (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

Sellafield sabotage team 'will go to jail'

By David Cross

Greenpeace activists said yesterday that they were willing to go to prison for cutting and blocking a Sellafield nuclear waste discharge pipe in defiance of a High Court Order.

Dr Hans Gunt, the Dutch Greenpeace campaign coordinator, said in Dublin that he and the captain of the Greenpeace vessel, Sirius, had received formal notice to appear in the High Court next Tuesday.

They will have to answer charges that they had infringed an order restraining them from "interfering with or trespassing on" the 1.5 mile pipeline.

"We are willing to face the consequences as individuals - though jail sentences could result," he said.

The Sirius docked in Dublin yesterday after two Greenpeace divers had spent seven and a half hours cutting a tin hole in a steel and concrete pipe and inserting two large inflatable balloons in the opening.

British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) said last night that although waste discharge from two pipes had been halted shortly before the sabotage operation began on Wednesday, one had been repaired.

He said that Greenpeace was urging the Irish government to start legal proceedings against Britain in the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Irish government sources said that they were opposed to any illegal activity to block the Sellafield pipeline.

Nevertheless, they said that officials were prepared to meet Greenpeace members if they had documents to present.

CPSA moderates walk out over demands by hard left

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

A meeting called by the new left-controlled executive of the biggest Civil Service union to discuss a two-day strike next Monday and Tuesday ended in chaos yesterday as moderates in the union leadership walked out.

The dispute erupted only 24 hours after the executive committee of the Civil and Public Services Association was taken over by Militant following a ballot of the union's 146,000 members.

Mr John Ellis, the union's general secretary, Mrs Marion Chambers, the president, and the senior vice-president walked out after the new leadership tried to strip Mr Ellis and Mrs Chambers of their powers. The walkout blocked the discussion which will resume at the next executive meeting in a fortnight.

The dispute continued when Mrs Kate Losinska, the senior vice-president, arrived at a news conference to announce the strike ballot results.

Mr Macreadie, who also attended the news conference, denied that and said it was only important issues the new executive wanted to control.

The CPSA members voted 49,077 (56 per cent) for strike action and 38,507 (44 per cent) against.

The other union involved, the Society of Civil and Public Servants, voted 20,912 (62 per

cent) for action, and 13,126 (38 per cent) against.

The action means a two-day strike in Department of Health and Social Security offices and most Whitehall departments and involves customs officers at ports and airports.

That will be followed by two-day stoppages in various parts of the country: on June 18 and 19 in Scotland, Northern Ireland and the North-east; June 25 and 26, eastern counties, the South-west and London; July 2 and 3 the North-west, Wales, Manchester, Yorkshire, and the West and East Midlands.

Mr Ellis and Mr Leslie Christie, leader of the SCPS, both denied that the action next week would harm the Labour Party in the run-up to the general election.

Mr Ellis said members were fed up and wanted a decent pay offer. The unions are claiming a 15 per cent in-

crease but the Treasury has offered 5 per cent.

Call for national minimum wage

Britain can no longer afford to do without a national minimum wage, according to a study by Cambridge University economists (Roland Rudd writes).

The authors of the report, Mr Frank Wilkinson and Mr Peter Brosnan, of the Department of Applied Economics, describe the Government's policies on low wages as a "false economy which has failed to create jobs".

They reject the claim by Lord Young that a minimum wage would destroy jobs. Instead, they argue that a national minimum wage is vital in providing a foundation for greater industrial efficiency.

Cheap Labour: Britain's False Economy, by Peter Brosnan and Frank Wilkinson (to be published by the Low Pay Unit).

Soldier shot dead in IRA ambush

By Richard Ford

The Provisional IRA shot dead a soldier yesterday, four days after he celebrated his 21st birthday.

Private Joseph Leach, single, of Preston, Lancashire, died instantly when he was struck in the neck by a sniper's bullet while on patrol in Andersonstown, West Belfast.

Private Leach, who had served only six months with the 1st Queen's Lancashire Regiment, is the second member of his regiment to be killed by the Provisional IRA since it began a four-month tour of duty last March.

He was the sixteenth member of the security forces to be killed this year. Masked gunmen occupied a flat overnight and held an elderly couple hostage to set up the ambush.

A big contingent of Irish police guarded Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the RUC, and 130 officers who crossed the border yesterday for the funeral of a colleague killed by the Provisional IRA.

Overload theory on capsized ferry

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

The Herald of Free Enterprise may have been overloaded when she sailed from Zeebrugge before her capsizing three months ago with the loss of nearly 200 lives.

Evidence of this was given yesterday to the inquiry into the disaster by Mr Kenneth Shearer, principal ship surveyor with the casualty investigation branch of the Department of Transport's Marine Directorate.

He said that test weightings of commercial vehicles at Dover had shown that on average they weighed about 10 per cent more than was indicated on ships' manifests.

He also said that on the Pride of Free Enterprise, a sister ship of the Herald, tests had shown that her lightspeed weight was 270 tonnes greater than had been previously thought.

The lightspeed weight is the weight of the hull of a ship plus fittings and equipment,

but excluding cargo and the contents of fuel and other tanks.

The reason for this increase of 270 tonnes is not known, but tests are to be carried out on the third sister ship, the Spirit of Free Enterprise, to check her lightspeed weight.

The condition of the Herald is so bad that it is believed no longer to be possible to establish her weight.

Mr Shearer said he would be reluctant to extrapolate from the lightspeed weight of the Pride of Free Enterprise to the Herald, but a document he has submitted to the inquiry indicates that if her weight had risen in line with that of the Pride, and if the weight of vehicles she was carrying was understated by about 10 per cent, then she would have been overloaded.

Earlier the inquiry heard of a critical speed at which water would have begun to pour into the vehicle deck.

The inquiry continues.

Police to grade 999 call urgency

By Craig Seton

Police in the West Midlands will no longer turn out immediately to all 999 calls after the announcement yesterday of a graded response system.

Senior officers conceded that people might have to wait several hours or even until the next day before an officer dealt with their case if it was graded as non-urgent. Calls dealing with a threat to life or property would still be dealt with immediately.

But Mr Philip Richards, the Labour chairman of the police authority, criticized the move. He said: "If somebody's house has been burgled that is very important to the person concerned. Of course there should be an immediate response. It does not matter whether they can solve the burglary or not."

"It shows how far away from the public the police are becoming. I am very disappointed. The public may create the demand but they also pay for it."

The new system will apply to all telephone calls to all police stations from Monday.

Last year 999 calls represented 44 per cent of the 857,296 calls reporting incidents to police in the West Midlands but they estimate that about only one third of all calls required an immediate response.

Supt Martin Burton said yesterday that the grading of calls was designed to maximize efficiency and was not connected to the force's shortage of manpower.

Earlier this year Mr Geoffrey Dear, the chief constable, announced that some traditional areas of policing, such as investigations of petty theft and stray dogs, might have to be abandoned because of the manpower crisis. The force has asked the Home Office for an extra 1,000 officers during the next three years.

But Supt Burton said that officers handling calls classified as non-urgent, such as cats up trees or people reporting burglaries on their return from holiday, would negotiate a time for an officer to attend when manpower was available.

He said: "All calls at the moment get a response as quickly as possible but that can cause a lot of aggravation."

"Our telephone operators are very skilled. They are used to dealing with people who may be upset or hysterical. Our research shows that so far they have not yet made a mistake."

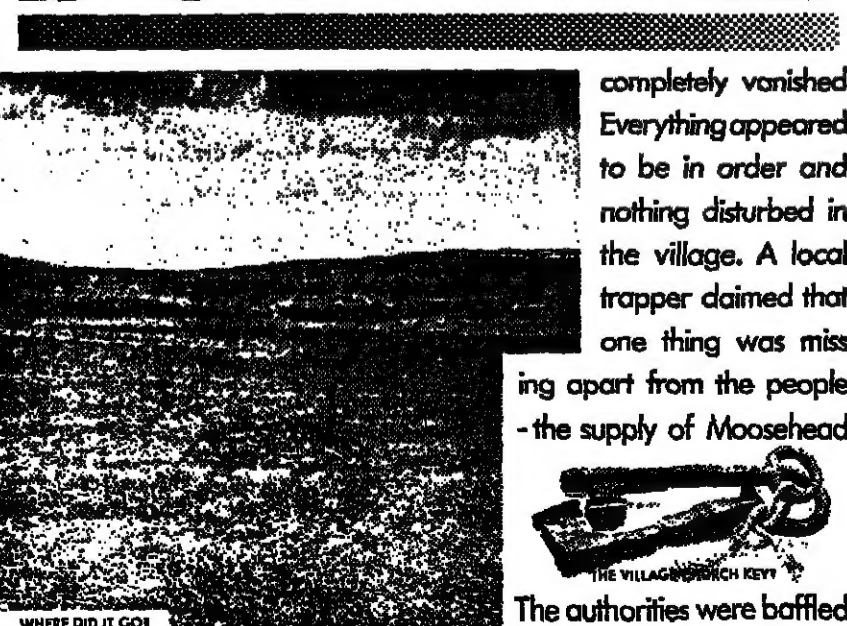
Calls graded for immediate response have been detailed to those involving a threat to life where there is a serious offence or incident in progress where there is a suspect or the likelihood of an arrest; or where there is the possibility of violence to persons or property; where evidence is likely to be lost, or where there is a call for attendance from fire and ambulance.

Mother on death charge

Dorothy Sarpong, aged 30, was remanded in custody yesterday accused of throwing her baby, Emmanuel, aged 12 months, to her death from the second storey flat where she lived in Dalston Lane, Dalston, east London.

Mrs Sarpong is charged with murdering her daughter, and causing grievous bodily harm to her son, David, aged two. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

THE VILLAGE THAT DISAPPEARED



completely vanished. Everything appeared to be in order and nothing disturbed in the village. A local trapper claimed that one thing was missing apart from the people - the supply of Moosehead.

► THE VILLAGERS of Lake Anjikuni in Northern Canada, once a thriving little community, disappeared sometime in the 1930s.

► Investigators found no trace of the inhabitants who had all

Austin lagging in sales race

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

Austin Rover lost its hopes of recovering its position in the British car market in the first half of this year when its market share sank last month to 13.5 per cent compared with 15.5 per cent in April.

Only in February has the loss-making car maker sold more cars than in the corresponding month for 1986, in spite of a 5 per cent rise in United Kingdom new car registrations to 848,216 for the first five months compared with the record size market in 1986. Austin Rover declined

to comment on the disappointing performance.

Ford continues to stride ahead at the expense of Austin Rover and Vauxhall.

Helped by the launch of the saloon version of the Sierra, Ford's market share rose to a dominant 32 per cent in May, according to official figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

From fighting a close battle with the Vauxhall Cavalier last year, particularly in the fleet market, the Sierra has

pulled well clear in the first five months of 1987.

More than 70 per cent of the Ford and Vauxhall models sold in May were built in Britain.

Imports, which accounted for 55.5 per cent of new car registrations in the January to May period last year, have consequently been cut.

BMW, Volvo and VW/Audi sales have all dipped this year, although Mercedes and Saab continue to push up their modest market shares.

Across the world in a microlight

By Andrew Morgan

A woman from Oxfordshire yesterday became the first person to fly from Britain to Australia in a microlight aircraft when she touched down at an airstrip in Darwin.

Eve Jackson, aged 28, set out from Biggin Hill in Kent, 13 months ago and took a circuitous route over mountains, deserts and jungles before completing the 12,000-mile journey.

She telephoned Mr Mike Plewman, managing director of Metalfax, the microlight makers, after her journey.

He said: "She was over the moon, just like we are. It is a momentous achievement."

Miss Jackson, from Thame, paid £8,000 for her aircraft and mortgaged her house for £30,000 to combine with sponsors to raise the money for the adventure. She planned the route with great detail, pinpointing landing strips for the 40hp machine with a maximum range of 500 miles.

However, the unexpected still taxed her heavily. Storms over the Channel after her initial take-off nearly ruined her trip but she continued, flying over the Alps to Yugoslavia. Machine-guns were fired at her when she crossed into Greek airspace.

Her experiences in Jordan

were more pleasant with King Hussein offering her a room in his palace.

The Syrians welcomed her warmly and she then flew to the United Arab Emirates before crossing the Arabian Sea to Pakistan and India, where her 12-month flying permit from the British Civil Aviation Authority ran out.

Mr David Cook, the aircraft's designer at Metalfax, had to fly to New Delhi to inspect the aircraft.

"But in the whole 13 months I think Eve needed only one spare tyre, an undercarriage and a set of brake pads", he said.

Following the death of the Islamic art historian, Anthony Hunt, some 70 months ago, a part of his important and superb collection has now been released by his mother to A Wellesley Briscoe and Partners Limited for a

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Anthony M. Hunt died in October 1985 at the early age of 53, after a period of ill health.

He had been educated at Mill Hill and Worcester College, Oxford. After a period in the Stock Exchange, travelling, and running his own art gallery in London, he returned to academic studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, where he increased studies led to several periods in the Middle East where he also served as Assistant Director of the British Institute of Persian Studies in Tehran.

His academic studies, writings and acquisitions were especially related to Iran where he collected and travelled extensively.

His long association with the major Islamic festivals, especially those in London in 1971 and 1976, which he was instrumental in organising, and the International Carpet Conference, meant that exceptionally important and magnificent creations passed through his hands.

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Parents hold key to child's progress in science studies

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

Sending children to private schools makes practically no difference to their knowledge or skills, according to a study of 12,000 pupils in nearly 500 schools in England.

The study by Dr Wendy Keys for the National Foundation for Educational Research, an independent body, showed that the type of school accounted for only 0.5 per cent of the variation in achievement.

It suggests that the reason why the school and teaching variables appear to make relatively small contributions to pupil achievement is that "the range between the best and worst teachers is small in comparison with the range of best and worst parents, chiefly because very bad schools are not allowed to exist".

The report, part of an international comparative study of science education in 25 countries, set out to explain the differences in how well pupils do in science at three stages: aged 10, 14 and at A level.

The clearest picture emerged from the group of those aged 14 for whom nearly 55 per cent of the variation in achievement was accounted for by 21 factors grouped into five blocks: home background, pupils' ability, school

influences, teaching practices and pupils' attitudes.

The single most important factor was the socio-economic status of the pupils' home background, which was measured by their parents' jobs, levels of education, choice of daily newspaper, the approximate number of books in the home and whether there was a computer. It explained nearly 23 per cent of the variation in the pupils' achievement.

The next most important factor was the pupils' numerical ability measured by 20 multiple choice questions testing their knowledge of and skills in number systems, measurement, graphs and algebra, patterns, series and spatial thinking. It accounted for nearly 22 per cent of the differences in achievement.

The third most important factor, accounting for just over 4 per cent of the variation, was verbal ability. The test contained 40 pairs of words for each of which the pupils had to decide whether the meanings were similar or opposite.

The remaining 6 per cent of the explained variation in achievement was shared between 17 factors, none of which had more than a marginal influence.

Another six factors con-

cerned the nature of the school, which accounted for 0.5 per cent of the variation. Within this block, the type of school, that is whether it was a comprehensive, grammar, secondary modern or fee-paying school, accounted for just 0.2 per cent.

An identical variation was explained by the size of the science class: surprisingly, pupils in larger classes did better. Aspects of Science Education in English Schools by Wendy Keys (NFER-Nelson, £23.95).

Overwhelming opposition to the Government's higher education policies is disclosed in a MORI poll for *The Times Higher Education Supplement* published today.

Five hundred lecturers in 85 institutions were asked which of two statements came closest to their own view: 84 per cent agreed with the first statement, "Cuts in higher education have reduced opportunities to enter universities and polytechnics, undermined the quality of teaching and research and produced chaos in many institutions".

Only 7 per cent agreed with the second, "The Government has pursued effective policies to promote efficiency and quality in higher education. As a result the institution is now much stronger than at the beginning of this decade."

Aids patients join brain drug trials

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

A drug that may combat severe brain disorders which afflict most Aids patients is to be widely tested in the United States and in Sweden, researchers said yesterday.

The drug is based on a naturally occurring chemical called Peptide T, discovered last year by Dr Candace Pert, an American neuroscientist. It has now received approval from the American Food and Drug Administration to be used in clinical trials.

Yesterday a Swedish scientist, Dr Lennart Wetherberg, told an international conference on Aids in Washington that a drug developed from the chemical had produced benefits in treating what has been seen until now as irreversible brain damage caused by the Aids virus.

Early studies in Sweden were now being followed up with tests of the drug on a group of 36 patients. "The effectiveness of Peptide T has not been proven but we are hopeful about its value", he said.

American research has shown that the drug is capable of fully reversing, at least in a laboratory, brain cell damage caused by the virus. At doses many times higher than would be given to humans, studies in

monkeys and rats were unable to detect side effects of the drug.

About two in every three Aids sufferers, including children, develop some form of senile dementia with symptoms including loss of memory, severe depression and other changes in behaviour.

Some researchers believe there are common denominators linking these conditions and Alzheimer's disease, one of the most common forms of senile dementia in the general population, affecting millions of people worldwide.

"One of the spin-off benefits of the massive amount of Aids research now going on is that it may lead to a better understanding of Alzheimer's disease and other neurological conditions", Dr Wetherberg said yesterday.

A Scottish company yesterday launched a range of anti-Aids disinfectants, described as a "peace of mind package".

The range was developed by R P Adam, of Selkirk in the Borders, and is designed for use at hospitals, prisons or police stations where staff are likely to come into contact with infected blood.

Fears of hanged soldier

Private Jeffrey Singh, who was found hanged at Army barracks in Shorncliffe, Kent, wept and spoke of "barrack room retribution" on the day he died when interviewed about alleged bullying and theft of chocolate and sweets by non-commissioned officers, an inquest into his death was told yesterday.

Private Singh, aged 17, initially denied he had been involved in an overheard conversation in which it was said NCOs were confiscating sweets and chocolates, Captain Anthony Curtis said.

But after a few minutes of denials Private Singh started crying and talking about loyalties and retribution.

After reassurances, he said he had chocolates taken from him by Corporal Stephen Barden, his section commander. He also said he had been punched on occasions by Corporal Barden.

He provided three names of others who might have had chocolates taken away or been physically abused.

Captain Curtis, second in command of Private Singh's company in the Junior Infantry Battalion, said that he was interviewing the third person named when news came of the incident.

The inquest continues.



Wendy Chivers and her daughter, Melanie, aged three, arriving in London yesterday after setting off from Plymouth on May 23 in a sponsored "Walk for the World" which seeks action to end world poverty. The walk, covering four main routes from Glasgow, Carlisle, Swansea and Plymouth, finishes in London tomorrow (Photograph: Deuzil McNeelance).

Arson attacks on judge

Life jail for teacher with a grudge

By David Sapsted

A former teacher with a grudge against a judge set fire to his home and carried out random attacks on other people's property to cover his tracks.

Southwark Crown Court was told yesterday that William Tingey, aged 51, of Bath Road, Speen, Berkshire, had waged an eight-year campaign of fire-raising and tyre-slashing after being evicted from a £500,000 house in Speen.

Mr Geoffrey Grigson, for the prosecution, said Tingey's campaign had been organized like a plot from Agatha Christie's *ABC Murders*, in which the culprit tried to

conceal his real aim by attacking unrelated victims.

Judge Butler, QC, told him: "These offences were carried out in pursuance of a carefully-planned campaign to damage property against those for whom you had formed an irrational hatred."

"You struck against the administration of justice simply because they chose to act on you in a manner you disapproved of."

Tingey, a Cambridge graduate, was sentenced to concurrent life sentences on two charges of arson and received concurrent two-year sentences on 13 charges of criminal damage, all committed

after June 1977 when he was evicted from the house he had shared with an elderly man until his death.

One of his victims was Judge Blomefield, who had ordered him to be evicted from his former home. The judge, asleep only yards from the seat of the fire, escaped the blaze which destroyed two cars and caused £25,000 of damage.

The three-week trial was told that Tingey burgled his former home five times and slashed the tyres of five cars; had vandalized the gamekeeper's home on the Speen estate; had written threatening letters and at-

tacked the property of a magistrate who had first heard his case and attacked other people's property, mainly cars, on 13 occasions.

Sentencing him, the judge said: "You have shown yourself to be a very dangerous man." He said the arson attacks were so serious that he feared Tingey might strike again.

Outside the court, Judge Blomefield, aged 68, said the attacks had culminated on Boxing Day, 1985, when he awoke to find flames in the garage block at his home at Frilsham, near Reading, Berkshire.

System of care led to jail death

Breakdowns in communications between officers and doctors at a prison hospital stopped an epileptic man being sent to a hospital days before his death, an inquest was told yesterday.

Kevin Hicks, aged 38, of Laburnum Avenue, Tottenham, north London, who was jailed for assaulting his father, died of an epileptic fit on March 12, 1985, at Brixton prison, south London, while waiting for a place at a mental hospital in Essex.

The jury returned a verdict of death by natural causes aggravated by lack of care.

The dead man's family intends to lodge an official complaint to the Home Office.

Dr Arthur Gordon-Davies, the coroner, said in his summing up at Southwark coroner's court, south London, that there had been an apparent lack of continuity in Hicks's care which had probably led to a serious interruption in his medication and to him not being seen by a doctor in the four days before his death.

"There has been a lack of continuity; there has been no one to say 'this man is my responsibility and I'm looking after him all the time'."

"It's the function and the duty of Brixton prison to look after sick people in its custody", he said. "There can be little doubt that the system has slipped up."

Doctor denies trying to cover error

A senior pathologist denied attempting to cover his mistaken diagnosis by trying to persuade a mortuary worker to break a corpse's neck.

"I would never cover up anything; I would always admit my mistakes. If I had asked the mortuary technician to fracture the neck I would rather have admitted it at first than go through the trauma of this trial", Dr Uduogoma Goonetilleke, aged 52, told a jury at the Central

Criminal Court yesterday.

The doctor, of Ascot Avenue, Ealing, west London, a senior lecturer in forensic medicine at the Charing Cross Hospital medical school, denied attempting to pervert the course of justice and incite to obstruct the North London coroner.

The prosecution has alleged that he wrongly diagnosed the cause of death of a woman aged 84 as a fractured neck. A second post-mortem examina-

tion by another doctor showed the real reason for death was natural causes.

Dr David Paul, the North London coroner, ordered both doctors to conduct a joint post-mortem examination to decide who was correct, but before that happened Dr Goonetilleke asked the mortuary technician, Mr Jeremiah Coode, to "drop the neck". Mr Graham Boal, for the prosecution, said.

The hearing continues

Portfolio Gold

Winner to study at university

A social worker and a milliner share the Portfolio Gold competition prize of £4,000.

Miss Pallavi Zaveri, aged 29, the social worker, of Ladbroke Grove, west London, said she would use the money to put herself through a post-graduate social work course at Bristol University next year.

She said she was working with mentally handicapped adults for the London borough of Kensington and Chelsea but would be starting the one-year course in January.

Mrs Andrea Leather, the milliner, of Sundon Park, Luton, said she would probably spend her prize money on new carpets.

She said she had only recently become a regular reader of *The Times*.

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Boy George's brother freed

Kevin O'Dowd, musician and elder brother of Boy George, was cleared yesterday on charges of supplying the pop singer with drugs.

No evidence was offered against Mr O'Dowd, aged 27, of Well Road, Hampstead, north-west London. Judge Pownall said confessions by him were "unreliable" because he was confused and worried about his brother.

Bank releases cheque clues

Police yesterday forced the National Westminster bank to reveal documents relating to a cheque for almost £6,000, written by a woman aged 70 to pay six men who laid tarmac on her drive in Pangbourne, Berkshire.

Detectives took a judge's search warrant to the Natwest bank in Newbury where the men had tried to cash the cheque.

Kestrel watch

Closed-circuit television is to be used at Peterborough Cathedral so that the public can watch the progress of a pair of kestrels and their fledglings in one of six nesting boxes installed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds last year.

Laws on self-defence are attacked

The legal dangers faced by people who try to stop wrongdoers or defend themselves were emphasized yesterday in the *Law Society Gazette*.

Their actions can put them in court, Mr Gavin MacFarlane, a barrister, says. The law is "a grey area of uncertainty" on how far members of the public are entitled to go when warding off attackers or attempting to apprehend wrongdoers, he adds, and calls for clear guidelines in the present climate of rising violence.

He says that the rules on the

rights of individuals to defend themselves or their property or to apprehend someone doing a criminal act are "very limited".

The basic rule is that "reasonable force" can be used, but there is no satisfactory legal definition as to what is "reasonable".

"We have moved a long way from the days when Queensberry rules could be applied to decide what was reasonable," the article says.

Any woman who feared sexual assault must have in her mind the thought that, if

she was raped, she might well be infected with Aids, it adds.

If a woman in this situation did not act to "put the assailant out of action", the attack might take place and she might be killed or maimed.

It was evident that in the light of soft sentences by the courts, more and more individuals were taking the law into their own hands.

Mr MacFarlane suggests that the time has come for the rules which restrict the rights of the general public in "having a go" to be applied less rigidly than in the past.

Motor industry

Rescued car firms tackle US market

By Daniel Ward
Motor Industry Correspondent

Two of Britain's small sports car makers are being taken over as they face a cash crisis caused by the high cost of selling in America and developing new models.

Reliant, based in Tamworth, Staffordshire, once counted Princess Anne among its customers. Now it is courting American investors in the hope of selling its sports car company which produces the small Scimitar two-seat car.

The company, better known for its three-wheel cars, believes the Scimitar's success depends on sales in North America, but it lacks the funds to prepare and launch the car there.

Panther, based in Byfleet, Surrey, and rescued from bankruptcy in 1980 by the Korean firm, Jindo Industries, yesterday announced that Ssangyong, South Korea's seventh largest industrial group, had bought an 80 per cent stake in the company for an undisclosed sum.

Panther conceded it could not afford to invest £6 million

Second-hand cars now offer good value according to the Consumers' Association magazine, *Which?*

It says that the price of a two-year-old car has been rising at only 7 per cent a year compared with 10 per cent or more for new cars.

The car buyers' guide advises: "Buying used is your best bet for a wider choice of better, more comfortable and perhaps safer cars than you might be able to consider new."

for the development of a new high performance sports car and a new factory to build it.

Mr Young Kim, Panther's chairman and chief executive, who retains a 30 per cent share in the company, said yesterday that after the takeover, Panther will move production to a new £3 million factory later this year where the workforce of 100 will be expanded to at least 230.

Production of the thirty-style Kallista sports car will continue at the rate of 350 a year, to be joined in the autumn by the new four wheel

Meanwhile the association has criticized the car industry's Safety Recall code for notifying owners of safety faults that need rectification.

It believes that many owners cannot be contacted by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre at Swansea and has called for more publicity, as well as for the Department of Transport to set up a telephone hotline so that the public can check on possible recalls.

drive, turbocharged Solo sports car.

A prototype of the British-designed Solo was first seen at the 1985 Birmingham motor show, but Mr Kim believed it could not be produced cheaply enough to compete with new Japanese sports cars in the £12,000 class.

Now the car has been completely redesigned at a cost of £1.6 million and production tooling will cost a further £3 million. Mr Kim plans to build 600 a year and sell them for about £28,000.

He said that the new plant will also assemble a new four

wheel drive off-road vehicle similar to the Range Rover.

Panther's chairman expects output of this vehicle to reach 3,000 to 4,000 a year.

The Reliant management announced two weeks ago to shareholders that the company would concentrate on its traditional three-wheel car and plastics moulding business.

A wholly owned subsidiary, Scimitar Sports Car, would be set up and sold to anyone with the finance to develop the car for the US market.

Launched in 1985, the Scimitar has not reached sales targets. It had hoped to achieve annual sales of 800 in Britain with continental sales raising this to 1,500 or perhaps 2,000.

A successful launch in America could have doubled production to 4,000 a year. Instead, the plastic-body two-seat car received a cautious reception with early quality problems detracting from its sound basic concept.

In 1986 the company lost £171,000 but for the first half of this year the losses have been reduced to £29,000 and a profit is forecast for 1987.

COULD THIS BE THE MOST CRITICAL SEAT OF THE ELECTION FOR MARGARET THATCHER?

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Church
role in
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Last weekend, Mr. Kinnoch said it would be to use "the resources that you've got to make any occupation untenable".

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Church vindicates role in political reform for clergy

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

To press for political, economic and social reform is a kind of "Christian obedience", a report from the Church of England's Doctrine Commission says today.

And personal good acts can blind one to the "real needs" — for justice, a fair wage, or equality of opportunity, the report, which will be read as a theological vindication of the principle of such political intervention by churchmen, says.

While a personal kindly action, such as supplying a good meal to someone in need, can be an expression of Christian obedience, it can also be self-indulgent, the report states.

"What is essential is the recognition that both the traditional manner of response to human need and the political manner are manners or methods of obedience.

"Both contain moral dangers and ambiguities, but both at their best can be honest and obedient responses to Christ's command — Go and do likewise."

The report is the first ex-

tended discussion of the difficulties and implications of belief in God to come from an official body of the Church of England for a generation, and it ranges widely over current theological controversies.

Rather than attacking any particular view, however, the Doctrine Commission has preferred to analyse each in terms of its strengths and weaknesses. It suggests that Christians may have a truer picture of the nature of God if they borrow from a number of sources.

Thus the religious faith is likened to a scientific endeavour, in that science has built up an accurate picture of the world by the continuous correction and improvement of earlier ideas, as faith has done.

Theologically, the most controversial part of the report is likely to be its discussion of whether God is changeless, and whether God can "suffer".

That is a current bone of contention between so-called "process theology" and tra-

ditional theological insistence on God's "impassability".

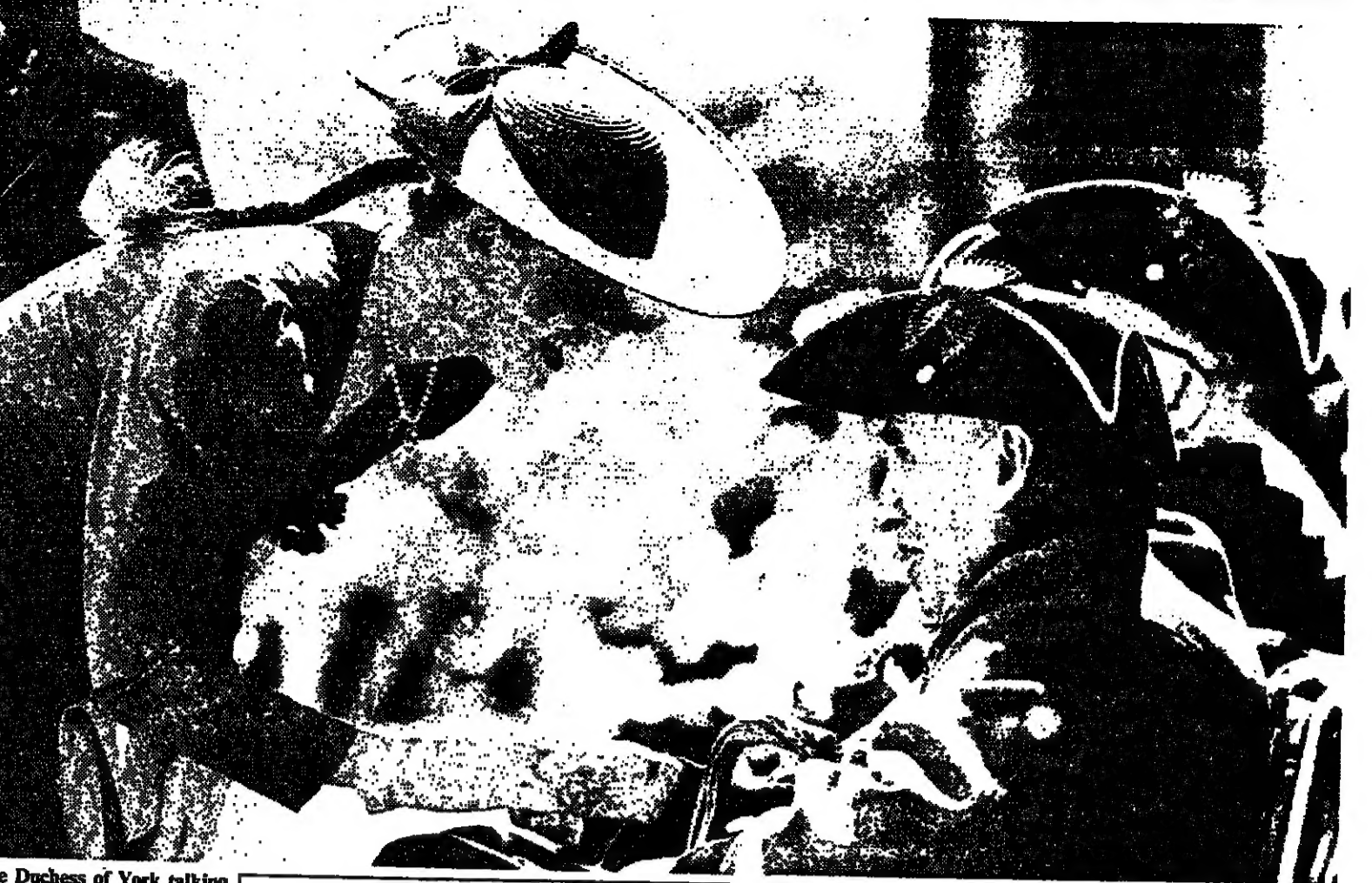
Many Christians had received strength, the Doctrine Commission states, from understanding that God was with them in moments of suffering and distress, and it could be said that God was "in" their suffering.

Jesus Christ's suffering on the Cross could not be regarded as confined to His human nature, as if the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity had become detached from Him and was watching impassively. Hence it may be said that in Christ, God suffered.

"The Three Persons are inseparable in their nature as they are in their creative and redemptive activity. If one suffers, then all suffer, or better, if God is in Christ suffering for our redemption, then this is the sign and guarantee of the Triune God's eternal involvement in human suffering and human destiny."

We Believe in God (Church House Publishing, Great Smith Street, London SW1; £3.50). Bishop of Durham, page 12

Old soldiers go on parade for Duchess of York



The Duchess of York talking yesterday to Mr Jack Russell, aged 97 next week, at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, where she was taking the annual Founder's Day parade. It was the first time the Duchess, the daughter and granddaughter of soldiers, had inspected a military parade.

Iceberg lettuces lead salad market

British growers have responded to the rising demand for iceberg lettuces, until recently an expensive import from the United States, by investing heavily in the technology to produce the tightly-packed heads and are now producing 40 million heads a year.

But while the British supplies are increasing, they are still supplemented by iceberg from Israel, Spain and the US. They cost between 40p and 90p a head.

English, Dutch and Channel Islands tomatoes at 45p to 70p

a lb, spring onions at 16p to 28p a bunch, and cucumbers 35p to 60p each, are all best buys this week.

Spring cabbages, Hispi at 25p to 35p a lb and Primo at 35p to 40p a lb, imported broccoli 60p to 80p a lb, are plentiful and cauliflowers, 40p to 65p a head, are good value, as are mushrooms, at 35p to 60p a half pound depending on size. English asparagus is at its peak and reasonable at £1.60 to £2.20 a lb bundle.

The first English strawberries are 65p to 95p for a half pound punnet. There are

also imports from Spain, France and Italy between 35p and 65p a half pound. Apricots from Spain are 60p to 70p a lb, and peaches from Spain and Italy are 12p to 20p each. Pineapples are a good buy this week, from 70p to £1.75 each, according to size. Avocados, 20p to 50p each, lemons 8p to 20p each, yellow honeydew melons 70p to £1.40 each, bananas 35p to 54p a lb and home grown rhubarb 15p to 25p a lb, are all good buys.

Fish supplies are generally good and some popular varieties are cheaper. Cod is down

3p to an average £1.80 a lb, with a range of £1.40 to £2.30. Codling is down 6p to an average £1.74. Colley, whiting, lemon sole and Dover sole are all cheaper than last week. At Billingsgate, more unusual fish is creating interest. Conger eel, which can be baked or poached, is good value at £1.20 a lb. Mediterranean anchovies are plentiful and cost about £1.45 a lb. Quite different to the tinned ones, they are large and plump and like sardines, which are another good buy at £1.15 a lb. Tuna steaks cost about £2.80 a lb.

Maxwell wins libel damages

Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, won substantial libel damages in the High Court yesterday over allegations that he failed to pay contributors to one of his newspapers.

Mr Maxwell, Mirror Group chairman, is to give the undisclosed damages to charity.

His counsel, Mr Andrew Caldecott, told Mr Justice Caulfield that Mr Maxwell is chairman and managing director of *The London Daily News* and the British Magazine Publishing Corporation, which published the newspaper, *Sportsweek*, until it closed last February.

In April, *Sunday Today* published a short article implying that *Sportsweek's* publishers, under the direction and control of Mr Maxwell, "had deliberately failed to discharge substantial debts owing to contributors."

It also implied "that Mr Maxwell, when faced with demands for payment by the aggrieved contributors, feigned sympathy and understanding."

"There was no truth whatsoever in any of these allegations," Mr Caldecott said. *Sunday Today's* editor, Mr William Hagerty, and the publishers, News UK, withdrew them in their entirety, apologized and agreed to pay Mr Maxwell and his companies damages and all legal costs.

Airlines bow to 'Russian rip-off'

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Aeroflot, the Soviet state airline, stands to profit from the battle now being fought by British Airways, British Caledonian and Japan Airlines for passengers flying non-stop between London and Tokyo.

The Soviets have insisted that, in return for allowing the flights to cross Siberia, each airline must pay 4 per cent of its revenue from the route to Aeroflot, which is expected to benefit by millions of pounds.

Negotiators for the three airlines were also told by the Soviets that one in three of their flights must use Moscow for refuelling.

Such a move will earn hard currency for the Soviet aviation authorities from landing charges, hotel bills for aircrew, and fuel for the next leg of the journey.

Both the British carriers are studying ways of avoiding what is being seen as "the Russian rip-off" once they take delivery of longer range aircraft in two years.

Talks between Britain and Japan, which both believe in allowing several airlines from each nation to compete on the same routes, went more smoothly than had been expected.

Both have agreed that when a second Japanese carrier, All Nippon, applies to fly the London-Tokyo route it will

have no obstacles put in its path.

But the Soviet authorities have maintained that any airline planning to fly across Siberia will have to pay heavily for the privilege.

The Russians also forced through an agreement allowing Aeroflot to increase the number of its flights between London and Tokyo from seven to 11 a week.

Aeroflot is not expected to attract many passengers from either the British or Japanese airlines but its presence will effectively create three separate pooling arrangements under which total revenues are shared according to a complicated formula.

Many countries charge for navigation services and also request royalty payments if their own airlines are disadvantaged, but negotiations with the Russians were regarded as among the toughest.

"We did have to pay a rather high price to Moscow before we could introduce the services agreed by our two countries," Mr Kishi Terasaki, Japan's deputy director of international tourism, said after conducting talks with the Russians.

By 1989 both the British airlines will be using aircraft that will enable them to avoid Soviet territory by flying over the North Pole.

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WORLD SUMMARY

Sikh extremists kill six Hindus

Amritsar (Reuters) — Sikh extremists yesterday shot dead six Hindus in the north Indian state of Punjab as Sikhs marked the third anniversary of the Indian Army assault on their holiest shrine, the Golden Temple.

Police said that five Hindus were killed in two attacks in Amritsar where militants began a peaceful protest inside the Temple complex against the June 1984 action in which more than 1,000 people died. Extremists also shot dead a right-wing Hindu leader in the industrial city of Ludhiana.

The deaths bring the toll in extremist violence to 10 this month in Punjab.

Minister vanishes

Mbabane (Reuters) — Swaziland's Minister for Natural Resources, Mr Mthembu, has failed to return from an official visit to Lesotho and the Prime Minister, Mr Sotsha Dlamini, has asked for a report on his movements, according to a senior Government official.

Mr Mthembu went to Lesotho last month and was last heard of in Botswana, according to Government and family members.

Last month, the Prime Minister denied that Mr Mthembu had been arrested with 12 other prominent Swazis for their alleged role in palace intrigue which resulted in the ousting of Queen Regent, Dzeliwe, known as the "Great She Elephant", who succeeded King Sobhuza in 1982.

Talks on border

Nairobi — Ministers from the Kenya and Uganda governments met here yesterday for discussions intended to reduce tension which has been rising for a month between the two countries over problems on their border (Alastair Matheson writes).

The talks are expected to centre on border security and easing the passage of goods and people across the joint border. According to the *Kenya Times*, the welfare of Ugandans living in Kenya is also likely to be discussed.

Mr Bakali Kirya, a Minister of State in the office of President Museveni, is leading the Ugandan delegation. The Kenya side is headed by Mr Justus Ole Tipis, Minister of State for Internal Security.

Farewell to Segovia

Madrid — The funeral of the century's most famous guitarist, Andrés Segovia, who died on Wednesday aged 94, attracted relatively little attention here yesterday (Harry Debelius writes).

The Spanish Minister of Culture, Señor Javier Solana, and the Mayor of Madrid, Señor Juan Barrran, paid their last respects to the musician, whose body was laid out in a glass-topped coffin in the Academy of Fine Arts before the funeral Mass and the subsequent interment, but did not attend the religious ceremony. Four municipal policemen in gala uniforms acted as pallbearers. When the body was removed from the Academy a few hundred Spaniards, standing outside in the street, applauded in tribute to the maestro.

Waldheim Deadly invitation dare

Vienna — Dr Kurt Waldheim, the Austrian President who was recently placed on the US Justice Department's watch list on account of his wartime activities, has been invited to visit Libya by Colonel Gaddafi (Richard Bassett writes).

In a personal message delivered to Dr Waldheim yesterday, Colonel Gaddafi expressed the hope that he would be able to visit Libya so as to seal the "warm friendship which exists between the two countries", a spokesman for the President said.

Dr Waldheim welcomed the invitation. So far he has been invited to visit only Hungary and Jordan.

Moscow (Reuters) — Dozens of passengers were killed in a Soviet plane crash last October when the pilot tried to land "blind" for a dare, the *Sovetskaya Rossiya* newspaper reported yesterday.

It said that two minutes from the end of a flight from Sverdlovsk in the Urals to Kuibyshev on the Volga River Pilot A. Klyuyev, who has since been jailed for 15 years, ordered his flight engineer to pull blinds over the windshield of the Tupolev 134-A airliner.

When the blinds were released, just 0.8 seconds before touchdown, the pilot tried to abort the landing, but the plane hit the ground, overturned and caught fire.

Aids campaign claim

Copenhagen — Denmark, which has the second highest incidence of Aids in Europe, is claiming a huge success for its new campaign against the disease, featuring sexy posters and huge condoms painted on buses with slogans in foreign languages (Christopher Follet writes).

One design features a red, white and blue condom with the words *I've La Petite Difference*. An English admonition is "Take care — out there". A quote in Russian from Pushkin, "Still, love is possible", is painted on a bright red condom.

Strike will mark war anniversary

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Palestinians plan to mark the 20th anniversary of the outbreak of the Six Day War today — but not the Israelis. Palestinian activists have called a general strike throughout the territories occupied since Israel's victory in 1967.

Many shops in east Jerusalem Ramallah and Bir Zeit were shut yesterday in anticipation of the strike. Three flags of the outlawed Palestine Liberation Organization were hoisted briefly in Ramallah before being hauled down by police.

Security forces are on special alert for the anniversary. Six prominent Palestinian activists were arrested yesterday and put into administrative detention for three months in a move aimed at disrupting organized protest. Among them was Mr George Hazboun, deputy head of the Palestinian Communist Party and a former deputy mayor of Bethlehem.

Israel is not commemorating the anniversary, technically because the Jewish calendar fixed the date this year at the end of May, but practically because the Labour side in the coalition Government felt it wrong to celebrate the military conquest of land which is now proving the main obstacle to peace negotiations.

Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, yesterday vented his fury and frustration at the current stalemate in negotiations in an angry speech to 2,000 party workers in Tel Aviv. The Likud faction no longer existed, he said. It was now made up of the militant settlers movement, the right-wing Tehiya Party which wants to annex the territories and the religious parties.

"If the Likud wins the next election there will be no chance of peace talks with Arab states," he shouted. "It is forbidden to talk about normalization with the Arab states? Can't we at least think about the possibility?"

Israel's melting pot, page 12

Captain Brindel: two radio warnings to Iraqi pilot.



Italy's Prime Minister, Signor Amintore Fanfani, welcoming President Reagan who flew in to Marco Polo Airport, Venice, on his way to the summit.

'Peacemaker' President is given the freedom of Sharpeville

From Michael Hornsby Sebokeng, South Africa

President P. W. Botha was yesterday granted the freedom of Sharpeville, a name woven into the very fabric of black resistance to white rule, and other black townships along the Vaal River some 40 miles south of Johannesburg.

After arriving by helicopter for the main ceremony at Sebokeng, the biggest of six townships in the region falling under the jurisdiction of the black-run Lekoa Town Council, the South African President was taken by car under heavy security to nearby Sharpeville, notorious as the scene of the 1960 massacre by police of 69 black demonstrators.

It was there, on March 21 of that year, that police panicked

and opened fire on a large crowd of unarmed blacks protesting against the pass laws, which at that time controlled black movement outside the rural tribal homelands and were to remain in force for another quarter of a century. They were abolished last June.

The last occasion on which Mr Botha made such a high-profile visit to black townships was in 1979, when he surprised many people by becoming the first South African Prime Minister to tour Soweto, Johannesburg's sprawling black satellite city, shortly after succeeding Mr John Vorster as the country's leader.

Yesterday's tour of Sebokeng and Sharpeville was seen as an attempt by Mr Botha to refurbish his tarnished image

as a peacemaker and reformer after telling Parliament last month that he intended to become personally more involved in negotiations with black leaders.

Mr Botha also told Parliament that a Bill would be tabled this session establishing a "national council" as a forum for negotiations with black leaders who eschewed violence.

A few days later he appealed in full-page newspaper advertisements to blacks to come forward. So far no black leader of substance has agreed to take part in the council.

The Vaal Civic Association (VCA), which has led popular agitation against the Government in the Vaal townships over the past three years, issued a statement on Wednesday deploring the visit to

Sharpeville and Sebokeng "by the Fascist and oppressive P. W. Botha".

The VCA, many of whose leaders are in jail under the state of emergency, said Mr Botha's presence there would be used "by his puppets to gain them so-called recognition while they have been outrightly rejected by the masses".

The VCA is one of the hundreds of grass-roots affiliates of the United Democratic Front anti-apartheid umbrella organization, which regards black mayors and councillors as "stooges".

On September 3, 1984, serious riots, triggered by reports of imminent rent increases, broke out in the Vaal townships.

Four black councillors were

killed during the first week and the unrest later spread to townships throughout the country.

It has taken more than 2,500 lives to date, though at a lower level of violence in recent months.

Large numbers of residents of the Vaal townships are still refusing to pay rent, and the Lekoa Town Council is said to have lost some 50 million rand (about £15 million) in rental income.

The boycott of rent payments has gradually spread to other townships.

According to a statement issued last month by Mr Chris Heunis, the Minister of Constitutional Planning and Development, 271.6 million rand (more than £80 million) is owed in rent countrywide.

Reaction to Iranian expulsions

Diplomats lying low in Tehran

From Robert Fisk Bahrain

Tehran newspapers were yesterday suggesting angrily that Iran should break off all diplomatic relations with Britain, in the wake of the Foreign Office's decision to close the Iranian consulate in Manchester and expel its five-man staff. But by last night there had been no official response from the Foreign Ministry in Tehran.

British diplomats did not venture from their two residence compounds during the day, save to visit Mr Ali Ahani, the Director General for European Affairs at the Foreign Ministry, to tell him formally of Sir Geoffrey Howe's decision to close the Manchester consulate.

The British have not forgotten how the Iranians staged a mass attack on the American Embassy — and briefly on the British Embassy as well — back in 1979. However, given Iran's apparent desire to explain their actions in a legal framework, it is unlikely that

so violent a demonstration would be staged again.

The position of Mr Edward Chaplin, the British First Secretary, remained the principal focus of concern for British diplomats in Tehran during the day. If, as expected, the Iranians do demand the withdrawal of five or more diplomats from the British Interests section of the Swedish Embassy, then Mr Chaplin is likely to be among them.

Indeed, given the grave charges which the Iranians have levelled against him — two of which carry the death penalty — his enforced departure for London would probably come as an immense relief to the remainder of the British Embassy staff in Iran.

Mr Chaplin, who was dragged from his car by members of the Central Revolutionary Committee, severely beaten and then imprisoned for 24 hours, is still in the British compound at Gollak in no physical discomfort although the marks of his ordeal are still visible.

All six men involved in the kidnapping took part in his beating. He suffered cuts on the chest and bruises to the upper torso, neck, head and shoulders. According to one Western diplomat in Tehran, Mr Chaplin did briefly try to explain to his attackers who he was, shouting: "I am a diplomat" at one of his assailants. "The man to whom he spoke took no notice," the diplomat said. "He shouted back at Mr Chaplin, 'So what? I am a Muslim' and then really gave him a going over."

What is particularly disturbing now is the apparent acquiescence of both the Foreign Minister and the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament in the Iranian action against Mr Chaplin, who has been accused of drugs offences and "economic sabotage".

Dr Ali Akbar Velayati, the Foreign Minister, has said that Mr Chaplin has been "quite properly charged", while Haj-ostoliam Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Parliament Speaker, has gone a stage further by

saying that Mr Chaplin had been "under surveillance" before his detention last week. Western embassies in Tehran still believe that the whole affair started with a power struggle between radicals and conservatives within the Foreign Ministry. The problem now is that Mr Velayati and Mr Rafsanjani will have to clamber down from their high moral fence if Mr Chaplin is to be given an exit visa.

With the crisis now gaining momentum, Mr Sheikholislam took himself off to Lebanon to attend the obsequies for Mr Rashid Karami, the Lebanese Prime Minister assassinated on Tuesday. Yesterday he travelled on to Ankara.

Several other British diplomats in Tehran are already facing up to the prospect of an imminent return to the safe, if less adventurous, confines of the Foreign Office — aware that their own security over the next few days remains the immediate problem.

Spanish dodgers will soon feel the taxman's pinch

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spanish tax inspectors are to put the incomes of industrialists, farmers, lawyers and other self-employed professionals under the magnifying glass this year. They reckon that such groups figure conspicuously among the one million or so Spaniards who fail to contribute their share to the public exchequer.

Señor Carlos Solchaga, the Minister of Economics, has said that the average income declared by owners of small and medium-sized enterprises and industries has been less than 800,000 pesetas (about £4,000) a year.

"Such poverty is very hard to believe when salaries workers have been declaring incomes of between one million pesetas and 1,200,000 pesetas a year," the Minister observed, adding: "It is obvious a high level of fraud exists."

The announcement of the tax inspectors' offensive was

well-timed, intentionally coinciding with the season when Spanish families get down to the annual agony of deciding exactly what to declare.

Señor José Borrell, the State Secretary for Finance, has given a warning that more than 60,000 citizens will be selected for a particularly close examination by the inspectors.

This bad news was announced at the pleasant Catalan seaside resort of Sitges, where Señor Borrell was taking part in a seminar on this year's annual tax exercise, ominously code-named "Step by Step".

"Things are changing," Señor Borrell said. "Gone are those days in the Franco era when people could often be heard boasting about not paying their taxes."

Out of a total of 150,000 tax returns given special attention last year, more than 90 per

cent were from businessmen or the professions, Señor Borrell said. Only 7 per cent of returns by salary or wage earners were found to be incorrect.

Owners of luxury flats and imported cars, and people in the building and service industries have been warned that the taxman's eye is upon them.

So far only the well-known flamenco dancer and singer, Lola Flores, has been singled out by name and accused in the courts of having "forgotten" to pay the equivalent of some £260,000 in taxes since 1982. But Señor Borrell has promised to send the investigating magistrates 100 new cases of alleged tax fraud and has asked the courts for "exemplary sentences".

But Spanish public opinion would probably be very much against putting anyone behind bars for tax fraud.



Mr Albert Hakim, the Iranian-born businessman, listening to his lawyer, Mr Richard Janis, at yesterday's hearings.

North may be forced to testify on scandal

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, who probably has the precise answer to the central question of "what the President knew and when he knew it" in the Iran-Contra scandal, looks certain to be forced to testify on Capitol Hill soon.

The Senate and House of Representatives committees investigating the affair are likely soon to grant him immunity from prosecution, despite appeals not to do so by Mr Lawrence Walsh, the independent counsel who is trying to build a criminal case against the Marine officer.

Interest in the colonel's testimony has been heightened by the assertion of Mr Albert Hakim, an Iranian-born businessman, that he secretly set up a \$200,000

Swiss bank account as a "death benefit" for Colonel North's family shortly before the Marine went on a secret mission to Tehran in May 1986.

At the time Colonel North, Mr Hakim and General Secord were conducting a covert enterprise to provide support to the Nicaraguan Contras.

Mr Hakim said he had become emotionally attached to Colonel North, that he came to love him, and was concerned about providing for his family should anything happen to him.

Last Saturday the account was worth just over \$216,000, according to records provided to the committee by Mr Hakim.

Japan hopes to take off the heat

From David Watts Tokyo

With a battery of statistics showing a rise in imports, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, leaves for the Venice summit this weekend confident that the figures and a package of measures to stimulate consumer demand will take the economic heat off Japan.

"We believe there is no other country that is so actively implementing so many measures as Japan," Mr Nakasone said at a press-summit gathering with foreign correspondents yesterday. He read off a list of impressive increases in imports and noted the £26 billion package of measures which the Government claims will stimulate the country's economy and reduce its overall trade balance by \$6.7 billion this year.

There is scepticism about the effects the package will have, if any, on imports. But, as with last year's Tokyo summit, the Venice talks seem likely to focus more on political questions than whether or not Japan is doing enough to stimulate world economic activity. Prominent among these this year will be a possible role for Japan in ensuring the security of Gulf shipping.

Mr Nakasone acknowledged that Japan was one of the biggest beneficiaries of oil shipping in the Gulf, but he did not offer anything beyond Japan's continued good offices in the search for a solution of the Iran-Iraq war and the willingness to listen carefully as the summit seeks what he called a workable, international solution to the problem. "We would like to see what Japan can do by watching the shape of such an international scheme," he said.

The Prime Minister made no response to reports in the Japanese press that financial assistance would be given to these risking personnel and ships in the Gulf. The country's constitution forbids sending military forces for a peace-keeping role but Mr Nakasone said Japan would seek to make a contribution as a non-permanent member of the Security Council.

The summit will provide the last opportunity for the Europeans to press the fast-dying case for Japan to buy an advanced version of the multi-role Anglo-Italian-German Tornado jet fighter for the Japanese Air Self-Defence Forces. The most likely outcome now is a largely domestically-produced machine with only the engines imported. But Panavia, the makers of Tornado, have been arguing for an interim purchase of 24-48 Tornados to fill a vulnerability gap that will open up in the mid-1990s when the present F1 aircraft comes to the end of its life.

Barring a political miracle at home, this will be Mr Nakasone's last summit, as he is due to leave office in October. It seems likely he will step down without having made any overseas new commitments to his summit partners.



From Christopher Thomas Washington

The captain of the USS Stark had only seconds to react to the Iraqi jet attack in the Gulf on May 17 because a radar warning that would have justified defensive action came only just before the first of two Exocet missiles was fired.

According to a new Pentagon chronology of the attack, the radar guiding the Stark's anti-aircraft missiles and 76mm guns locked onto the Mirage aircraft five seconds before the first Exocet struck.

That missile did not explode. But 25 seconds later the second missile exploded in one of the crew's sleeping compartments, setting off fires that caused many of the 37 deaths.

The Pentagon confirmed that Captain Glenn Brindel issued two radio warnings to the Iraqi pilot to change course.

"In the first warning, USS Stark identified herself as a US Navy warship on a bearing of 78 degrees at 12 miles," the Pentagon said. "Thirty-seven seconds later a second warning was issued stating USS

Stark's position as bearing 76 degrees at 11 nautical miles from the aircraft. No reply to either warning was received."

The Stark detected the searching radar beams of the Iraqi Mirage F1 fighter at 10.06pm. That in itself did not justify defensive action, Pentagon officials said. Three minutes later the Iraqi pilot locked onto the ship with his radar in a way that did justify defensive action.

Instead of following the usual tactic of keeping the radar locked onto the ship for

several minutes before veering off or firing, the pilot went straight into the launch mode, the Pentagon said. A minute after that the Stark's radar locked onto the Mirage.

The Pentagon is disputing Iraq's assertion that the Stark was inside the "exclusion zone" of the Gulf, in which Iraq had served warning that ships would be liable to attack. The Americans insist that the ship was 10 to 15 nautical miles outside the zone.

Mr James Webb, the Navy Secretary, said he had no

doubts that the Stark was outside the zone. He refused to answer questions about the performance of Captain Brindel, presumably because the captain may face a court-martial.

Mr Webb said that one lesson of the attack was that rules of engagement for the Gulf must be clarified. "You cannot send a military unit into a combat environment and not give them a clear military mission. You don't tell them they are there for presence."

Letters, page 13

German nuclear arms debate

Kohl's qualified deal on 'double zero' offer passed by Bundestag

From John England, Bonn

The Bundestag yesterday approved Chancellor Helmut Kohl's qualified acceptance of the Soviet "double zero" offer on European missiles in which he excludes West Germany's 72 Pershing 1A nuclear weapons systems and calls for far-reaching superpower agreements on conventional, chemical and strategic nuclear weapons.

The vote was 232-189 in favour of the centre-right Government's compromise agreement, thrashed out last Monday, after a policy statement by the Chancellor and an unusual show of party unity between him and Herr Willy Brandt, the Social Democratic Party (SPD) chairman.

But at least one of Herr Kohl's Conservatives showed his dissent from the deal by abstaining from voting.

The MP, Herr Gerhard Scheu, a member of the Bavarian Christian Social Union led by Herr Franz Josef Strauss, who is against Mr Gorb-

chov's proposal, said that he rejected it mainly because it did not offer a worldwide zero.

Herr Brandt, in ironic mood, praised the government coalition for having "moved a bit", but called on it to accept the Soviet offer "without ifs or buts".

Herr Kohl, who carefully avoided using the term "double zero", told the Bundestag that the Soviet proposal on longer-range missiles (LRINF) was unsatisfactory because it left the superpowers each with 100 warheads. The Russians' demand for the right to move their weapons to Eastern Europe for training purposes was a factor of insecurity for Europeans and would also present verification problems.

For those reasons the West German Government, together with its partners, preferred a worldwide scrapping of such weapons.

The Soviet proposal on shorter-range missiles

(SRINF), Herr Kohl added, was also restricted to Europe and thus contained a serious disadvantage for Germany.

The proposal meant that the Russians' "crushing superiority" in missiles with ranges of up to 300 miles, especially their 583 Scud systems, which NATO had nothing comparable to set against, would remain untouched.

Quoting a defence White Paper published by the SPD-led government of former Chancellor Schmidt, Herr Kohl said the Warsaw Pact's superiority in conventional forces was not an invention of his Government. The present situation in the conventional area made it clear that Bonn could not consider an unconditional acceptance of the Soviet proposal on SRINFs.

Motions from the SPD and the Greens opposition parties against a further stationing of the Pershing 1A missiles in West Germany were rejected.

Leading article, page 13

NZ anti-nuclear law passed

From Richard Long, Wellington

The New Zealand Government's anti-nuclear legislation, which bans nuclear warships, was voted into law by 39 votes to 29 in Parliament last night after a rowdy and emotional debate.

The opposition National Party pledged to repeal the clauses affecting ship visits, saying they wanted to maintain the close defence relationship with Britain and the US.

Mr David Lange, the Prime

Minister, described the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament and Arms Control Bill as watershed legislation.

But Mr Jim Bolger, the Opposition leader, said the legislation did not make any contribution to arms control and did not provide a guarantee that New Zealand would be immune from the use of nuclear weapons.

It also ignored the wishes of the 80 per cent of New Zealanders who told a committee of inquiry they wanted

to remain in an operational Anzus alliance with Australia and the US, he said.

Government MPs stood and applauded the final passage of the legislation, which has strained relationships with Washington and London, and caused difficulties for the Australian Labor Government with its left wing.

Peace groups celebrated with champagne, balloons and streamers in Parliament grounds, and Labour MPs celebrated at a party in their Caucus Room.

Campaign turns into a Craxi v de Mita match

From Roger Boyes, Rome

Plastered along a flaking Roman wall, around the corner from where Julius Caesar was murdered, election posters depict two footballers jumping in front of a goal mouth and bashing each other's skulls.

Look more closely and you will see that the players are Signor Bettino Craxi, the leader of Italy's Socialist Party, and Signor Ciriaco de Mita, head of the Christian Democrats — neither renowned for football expertise.

Look even more closely and you will note that the poster was printed by the Communist Party.

These are odd times in Italy. The election campaign, which technically has lasted only as long as the one in Britain, seems to have been waged since March 3 when Signor Craxi first resigned as Prime Minister. There is a fatigue and a faint grubbiness, as if the whole country has been on an enforced three-month-long Jumbo flight.

And even though this is a country where every parliament is "hung", where proportional representation forces a constant forging and re-forging of coalitions, the campaign has come to seem like a duel between two party leaders.

Just as the ancient Romans channelled their political frustration into circuses and chariot races, something similar seems to be happening today with the whole political field standing by to clap idly as the Christian Democrats, the largest party, slug it out with their

erstwhile partners, the Socialists, who are the third largest force in Italy.

There are more than a dozen parties in the Italian Parliament, and even more at the local level.

The landscape is dominated by the Christian Democrats, who have averaged about 40 per cent of votes since the war — down to 34 per cent at the

last election in 1983 — but who have never managed to capture an absolute majority. The result is that the party is constantly making deals to maintain its hold on government.

Its first coalition partners were the Monarchists and neo-Fascists, then the Socialists. Then, briefly, the party ruled with Communist support (though no Communists were admitted to the Government) and finally, again with the Socialists and three other small parties — the Republicans, Liberals and Social Democrats.

The last formula, which collapsed this spring, was known as the *pentapartito* —

the five-party axis — and it gave immense power to Signor Craxi who, though his party only has an 11 per cent share of the popular vote, demanded that the Christian Democrats allow him to be Prime Minister. When Signor Craxi refused to let the Christian Democrats have a go at being Prime Minister, the coalition was scuttled.

The election campaign has raised some important questions about Italy. How long, for example, can the Communists, with about 30 per cent of the vote, be excluded from power? How binding are the deals made when coalitions are formed? How is lasting reform to be achieved by such disparate and short-lived governments? Is there not a need for a strong central authority — perhaps a directly elected president?

Electoral reform is urgently needed in Italy. According to some theories, the Italian system could be pushed in the direction of the West German one which combines the British first-past-the-post approach with a degree of proportional representation.

But to achieve these changes one would need the consent of precisely those parties who stand to lose most. The result is paralysis, and that leads to a studied indifference by ordinary Italians towards government, parliament and politicians.

The latest scepticism is charming, even amusing, to outsiders, but ultimately dangerous.

Time for González to step in

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's Socialist Party looks like losing power in several big cities and self-governing regions in Wednesday's elections, according to the unanimous findings of three public opinion polls published here yesterday.

But with the polls, which appeared in *El País*, *Diario 16* and *Ya*, all taken towards the beginning of what has proved a sluggish campaign, the Socialists still have until Monday night to try to rally their supporters, if they can.

Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, who carefully kept out of this campaign, has now decided he must intervene and will address a mass

rally in Madrid on Sunday night.

The polls forecast that Señor Adolfo Suárez, who seized on the campaign to further his efforts to become prime minister again in the 1990 general election, will leap forward dramatically next Wednesday, so confirming his slogan "the Centre is advancing".

The performance of the right-wing Popular Alliance under the new leadership of Señor Antonio Hernández-Mancha is lacklustre by comparison, the polls suggest.

Only if the Socialists agree to form pacts with either Señor Suárez's newly elected councillors or with regional

MPs will they perhaps be able to remain in office, even though sharing power.

But in several regions Señor Suárez's men might, if they choose, join with the Popular Alliance or various regional groupings to dismiss Socialist administrations.

Although his aides denied any possibility of such pacts during the campaign, Señor Suárez has now suggested his men might form an alliance "with whichever party is closest to our programme".

The trouble is, Señor Suárez exercises a highly personal appeal and his programme has been kept intentionally extremely vague.

UN told of rising tension in Cyprus

From Zoriana Fysariwsky, New York

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary General, has called the build-up of Turkish forces in the northern sector of Cyprus a provocation to the Greek Cypriots, and he urged both sides to submit to UN verification procedures to ease escalating tensions on the island.

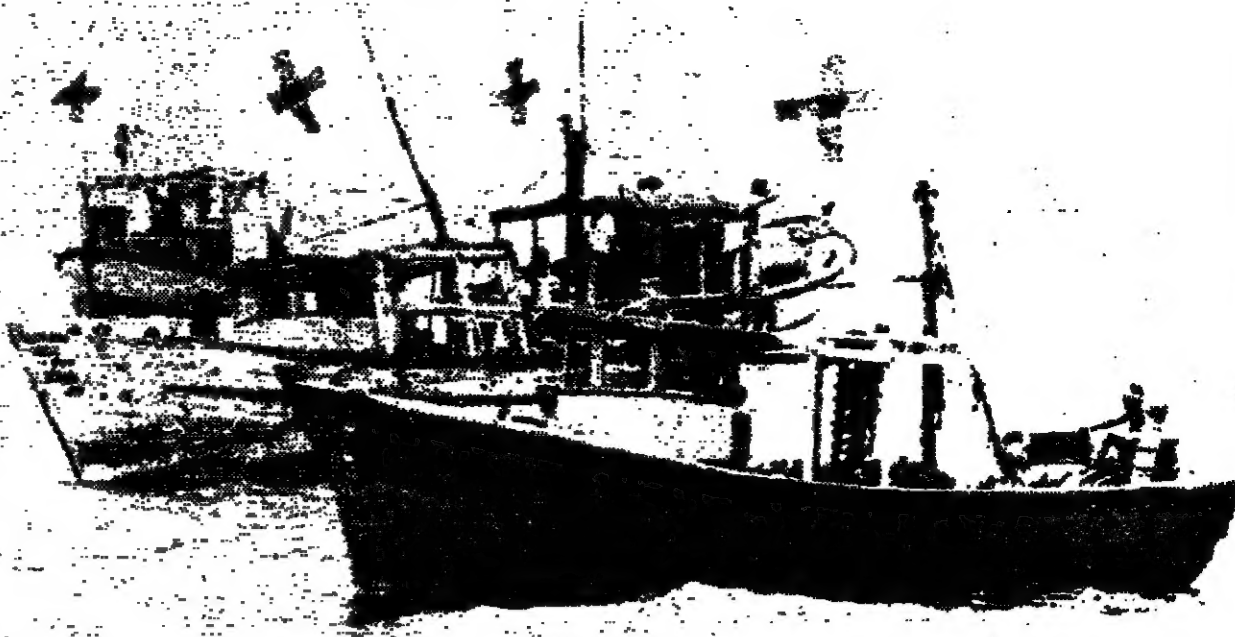
In a report to the Security Council, he depicts the situa-

tion on Cyprus in its gravest light, reporting that efforts to resume negotiations over unifying the island appeared hopelessly deadlocked, fueling mutual distrust and setting the stage for an outbreak of violence.

In addition, countries contributing to the UN peacekeeping force were growing impatient with the lack of progress on the political front and the growing financial burden they had to bear.

Britain, with 741 troops, has the largest single contingent in the 2,300-strong operation, which is now \$155 million (£94 million) in arrears.

Sweden, one of the most stalwart and dependable contributors to UN peacekeeping missions, has threatened to pull out from Cyprus, giving rise to fears that the force may be dissolved. Should that happen, diplomats believe tensions between the two communities could explode.



A flotilla of boats flying the Red Cross flag, loaded with supplies intended for Tamils on the Jaffna peninsula of Sri Lanka, setting out from India. The convoy was recalled after Sri Lanka warned the Indian Government it would defend its territory.

The Tigers refuse to be tamed

From Michael Hamlyn, Point Pedro, Jaffna Peninsula

In a Methodist church hall in this, the most northerly town of Sri Lanka, a hundred or so terrified Tamil youths sit cross-legged on the floor in neat rows.

"They were identified as Tigers by their neighbours," said a Military Police officer. "We shall shortly be taking them to the south where they can be questioned. If any of them have committed crimes they will be charged. If they haven't they will be released."

One exclaims: "I am not a terrorist, sir. I do not want Eelam. I want peace. My family is very poor, sir. They depend on me. So I am very afraid. Can you get me free?"

According to the general staff officers a few miles away at Palaly base, where the offensive started, there are some 3,500 young Tamils now in military custody. They have identified 91 dead militants, but the rest shed their uniforms and mingled with the civilian population. Now they are trying to root them out, with the aid of informants hooded with gunny sacks.

Outside, between the church and the beach, a long line of heavily armed soldiers trudge by, silhouetted against the

sea. They are men of the Ceylon Light Infantry, and are in the process of regrouping after the week-long offensive that ended with the capture of this town from the separatist Tamil guerrillas.

They wear heavy, US-style steel helmets, covered with sacking, and sport camouflage flak jackets. They look small and fierce and tired.

Though the soldiers have won the admiration of the Sinhalese public for their action in seizing control of this area, the Tamils are busy demonstrating that they have not been defeated.

A bloody massacre of Buddhist priests this week marked the reopening of hostilities in the east. In the north a bold assault on the old Dutch fort in Jaffna city itself reminded its inhabitants that the war was far from over. The Tamil rebels pushed a vehicle packed with explosives close to two telecommunications buildings outside the 200-year-old fort, and shattered them both. Three soldiers died and 40 were injured.

According to Lieutenant-Colonel Asoka Jayewardene, the fort commander, 75 or 100 militants then broke into the perimeter and were only driven off after four hours of fighting.

The colonel was keen to continue the

recent military offensive in the peninsula by taking the city of Jaffna itself. But on the day he spoke I flew over the little smuggler's port of Veerithurai a few miles down the coast from here. The streets there show what could happen to Jaffna if the colonel had his way.

Though we were a thousand feet up in a helicopter it was plain to see that most of the main streets had been devastated, especially along the seaford. There was a great deal of recent damage, which was done by shelling from the sea, by aerial bombing or by guerrilla mines and booby traps. Most probably all three.

The commanding general of the Sri Lankan armed forces, General Cyril Ranarunge, insisted that he and his field commanders always had in mind the principle of the use of minimum force.

On the issue of a second phase to the military offensive, he said: "It is not a question of moving from place to place. It is a question of getting a political solution." At present that seems some distance away, and the wording of a funeral slab in the entrance of the splendid old Dutch church inside the Jaffna fort seems appropriate. The slab, covered with broken glass and rubble from the roof tiles, reads: "Hoe Lang is de Eeuwicheyd? How long is eternity?"

Zimbabwe warning to 'unruly' whites

Harare — "Unruly whites" insulting the Zimbabwe Government will be prosecuted and will be deported if they are not citizens. Mr Simbi Mutakoko, the acting Minister of Home Affairs, announced here (Jan Raath writes).

In the first official reaction to the arrests and detention of five young whites in the Bulawayo last week and the alleged assault of four of them, including two teenage girls with British citizenship, Mr Mutakoko said the Government felt "very strongly" about the incident leading to their arrest.

He said it was one of several incidents around the country where whites had been openly abusive to blacks and the Government's leadership, and expressed support for South Africa.

Four killed

Braga, Portugal (Reuters) — Four people were killed and three seriously injured when a fireworks store exploded near this town in northern Portugal.

Two released

Peking (Reuters) — Robert Semeniuk, a Canadian freelance photographer and Jari Lindholm, a Finnish journalist, who were detained near Tibet's border with India, have been released after interrogation in Lhasa.

Lion hype

New York (Reuters) — MGM's famous lion, which has stared out from film screens for 70 years, will be appearing on glasses, T-shirts and even telephones if a newly-launched trademark licensing campaign is successful.

LIMITED ISSUE — INVESTMENT BOND

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Alliance set to oppose further Tory union reform

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The SDP/Liberal Alliance, which has backed most of the Conservative Government's trades union legislation in recent years and in some cases criticized it for not going far enough, yesterday signalled the parting of the ways with the Tories on union reform.

They attacked the Labour Party's dependence on the trades unions and criticized them for keeping union leaders out of sight during the election campaign. But they then confirmed that they would join Labour in renegeing further trades union reforms planned by the Conservatives.

The Tory manifesto committed the party to secret ballots before the calling of strikes, the protection of individual members who defy a strike call, the election by secret ballot every five years of union executives - ending the "job for life" enjoyed by Mr Arthur Scargill and other union leaders - further limitations on the closed shop and the establishment of a trade union commissioner to aid individuals in conflict with their union.

But Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, said yesterday that the Alliance did not believe in telling trade unions how to run their own rule books and that it was wrong to exempt individuals from union disciplinary procedures. "If you join a club, you are bound by the rules," he told an Alliance press conference in London.

Mr Bill Rodgers, a former Labour minister and now the SDP candidate for Milton Keynes, said earlier at the press conference: "Mr Neil Kinnock is more in debt to the trade unions than any Labour leader in the past and they, in 1987, are more ready to manipulate him as Prime Minister, if that opportunity occurred, than his predecessors."

Labour, he said, would let the unions run the country. They were the party's paymasters and would be treated as an equal partner in government.

Mr Rodgers and Mr John Grant, a former Labour employment minister, also fighting for the SDP, said that Labour's planned reversal of

Tory trade union laws would result in the return of secondary strikes and secondary picketing and give unfettered rights to mass pickets.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said that the Alliance would retain the current limits on secondary industrial action and picketing, encourage the greater use of arbitration before strikes with a "cooling-off" period, and introduce industrial democracy at the workplace with elected employee councils and rights to participation at board level. They would also bring in postal ballots rather than workplace ballots as the norm for union elections.

When asked if the Alliance would support the Tory plans, Mr Grant at first said that that would be "up for negotiation" and Dr Owen broke in to say that "giving the unions back to their members" had been an Alliance concept and they welcomed the conversion of the Conservatives to secret ballots.

But when they were pressed to say if they would support the new round of Tory proposals, Mr Grant said that the Alliance did not favour a commissioner to help trade unionists in dispute with their union and it did not go along with giving the minority the right to opt out of a strike called by a proper ballot.

Dr Owen said: "The distinction is this: to take disciplinary action within the trade union is perfectly legitimate. If you join a club there are rules and if the club has a democratic procedure then the members are bound by that. What we would not accept, however, is that on then being dismissed from the union they could then say 'now you must leave this particular factory'."

"If a person is already employed the fact that they've gone against the union on an issue of calling out on strike they are entitled to cross a picket and they are entitled to continue to work."

The SDP leader said that it would be the same for any organization. "We should preserve the individual's right to work and to cross a picket but you don't tell unions how to run their own rule books."



"Well it was never till death us do part!"

Evangelist road manager steers Tories from dogma to passion

Mr Harvey Thomas, the director of presentation for Conservative elections, Mr Thomas set the pace, but now Labour, with Colin Welland and Hugh Hudson in the background, have caught up. "It's not British, and it's not Thatcher - an American rock and roll image of politics," said the sound equipment manager, mildly complaining in Edinburgh about the disorganization imposed by security, each destination only being disclosed 36 hours in advance. The sound equipment alone costs £750 a night, which is cheap, plus travel expenses.

Mr Thomas believes he has to free the emotions of both the public, and the performers. "It's nonsense to say the British are not emotional. Just

Freedom, choice, individualism. Campaigning for Graham and Mrs Thatcher has similar themes, he says: A message rather than a product; the integrity of the communicators; a huge background of voluntary organization, coach loads of middle-aged women, "the gold at the heart of anything," with their cheese and wine parties; and the biggest block to conversion being the quality of the ambassadors, not the quality of the message.

The ambassadors - Mr Kenneth Clarke, Sir George Young, Mr Norman Fowler, Douglas Hurd and the rest have been working hard on their television presentation. "What I tell people about

carefully selected rural field beside the 15th century church at Boxley. Sheep grazed, hobbles in shirt sleeves scanned the cow-parsley hedgerows. As romantic as *Salad Days*. Maggie delivered her text to the ladies in blue twin-sets with that unbending tone of moral righteousness, ever Maggie Smith Miss Brodie.

So insistent is her theme of the unarguable virtues of self-help that it inevitably becomes vulnerable to allegations of selfishness on the part of the, even moderate, achiever. Pragmatism is not always convincing to the unconverted.

"I don't think the label of not caring is sticking," Mr Thomas says. "But she's a conviction politician, and although she's very open to input on presentation, her attitude is that you don't necessarily say something because it sounds good, you say what is right. It is not true that she's unconcerned with those who can't do it for themselves, but when you believe something as vehemently as she does you repeat what's on your mind."

Mr Thomas is assisted by five teams of golfers, a band of barristers, bankers, solicitors, sales and advertising executives, and designers.

It was Mr Thomas who decided to soft pedal the television impact in the early days of the campaign. To run and punch too early, he believed, would expend effective momentum. The climax will come with two rallies this weekend. In his opinion, the personalization of the campaign by Labour is not disadvantageous. "We can afford to be examined," he says. "We don't mind if people dig into the facts."

Passion, or facts? It's a fascinating battle. You don't see Maggie hugging Denis on the stage, and Mr Thomas's golfers don't line up the children and pets for ritual embraces. In the smile competition, Mrs Thatcher's tours, but security drives her on to stages isolated from the general voter, so that at times her performance can seem surreal. On Monday she was presented to the bed-rock supporters of Mid-Kent (maj. 12,500) on a mobile stage in a

David Miller



Mr Thomas in action at Boxley, Essex.

The effectiveness of such rallies is crucial to the campaign by the party leaders. Their route to the floating voter is not around the hustings but exclusively by television. Mrs Thatcher, because of stringent security, has barely encountered a heckler in two weeks. Mr Thomas is as anxious about his show's ratings as a Michael Grade or Peter Hall.

A Baptist, educated at Westminster and Northwestern Bible College, Minneapolis, Mr Thomas has public relations consultant for Billy Graham for 15 years, has handled presentation of Conservative rallies at the last three elections and this time manages the whole of Mrs Thatcher's touring campaign. "Billy Graham roared," said *The Scotsman* sarcastically, but during an 18-hour day nothing ruffles his equanimity. He knows his responsibility is to help the party and its leader appear upbeat. And he recognizes that Mr Neil Kinnock has been key in to a tide of emotion.

Bands, lasers, operative lighting sets: for two successful

watch sporting crowds, or audiences at pop concerts... The Tories know what they stand for, but tend to be a bit boring and can seem to be stuffy. In the past, they've only concentrated on winning the political argument. They have to win the argument and the people. That's where Kinnock has done well in the first two weeks winning the people, even if in the end it may come through that he has no message."

Mr Thomas does not hide his affiliations. The core of evangelism and Toryism are much the same, he claims.

Thatcher to play much bigger role

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister has decided to take a much bigger role in the last days of the general election campaign in response to the apparent slip in Conservative support.

She is to try to stamp her authority and experience as a national leader on the election in an attempt to stem the Labour advance. A series of speeches and national radio and television interviews have been planned for the days running up to polling day.

The climax will be her flying visit to Venice on Monday and Tuesday for the economic summit, a trip which Conservative election planners are hoping will underline her status as the world leader.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has decided to take the centre stage amid signs of concern among some of her close advisers about the way the Conservative election campaign has been run. There is also concern in her camp about the trend of some recent polls and the apparent prospect of a hung parliament.

It had always been planned that she would make her main television appearances towards the end of the campaign, but in recent days several other radio and television engagements had been taken on.

Yesterday, campaigning in Derbyshire, the Prime Minister said she was not nervous about the outcome of the election. She said that the Gallup Poll showing the Conservatives lead at only 4 per centage points was only one among many others showing a much bigger lead.

Mrs Thatcher's decision to take the central role is intended to contrast her experience as Prime Minister for eight years with the inexperience of Mr Neil Kinnock.

She told reporters that the campaign was going as planned and was "coming up to a crescendo" this week. She conceded that she had not appeared much on television, but pointed out that she was starting last night with her *This Week* interview on independent television.

Unions demoralized by Tory reforms

By Roland Radd

Eight years ago Mrs Margaret Thatcher came to power determined, she said, to cut the Civil Service down to size.

She initiated a series of reforms that outraged her opposition and infuriated the Civil Service unions, but left her perhaps wielding more power inside Whitehall than any of her post-war predecessors.

During the Thatcher years the Government froze recruitment to Whitehall; cut numbers by more than 100,000; initiated a series of "efficiency reviews" under Lord Rayner from Marks and Spencer, whose controversial scrutiny of departmental activities led to the shredding of millions of taxpayers' files; banned unions from GCHQ at Cheltenham and ensured that the real pay of most civil servants did not rise at all.

The Conservatives say that their reforms are producing annual savings of £1 billion. So not surprisingly, a third Thatcher term would "press on with long-term management reforms in order to improve public services and reduce their cost."

However, the reforms have left the unions demoralized

and disillusioned. The general secretary of Inland Revenue Staff Federation, Mr Tony Christopher, appeared to sum up the feelings of his fellow trade unionists when he accused the Prime Minister of thinking that civil servants were only "unproductive, paper-shuffling Sir Humphrey Applebys".

ISSUES

CIVIL SERVICE

Both Labour and the Alliance say that they will restore trade union rights at GCHQ and reverse many of the Conservative changes, particularly the restraint on Civil Service pay, which, by highlighting the gap with comparable people in the private sector, led to two bouts of industrial action. A Civil Service strike over pay is still lingering on.

Both opposition groups plan to implement reforms of their own to restore Civil Service morale. The Labour Party will establish a new code for Civil Service pay with proper access to arbitration, reverse the cuts in staffing and

increase the number of customs officers.

The Alliance is proposing to set up an independent pay and information board for all the public sector to replace the different pay review bodies, which were bitterly criticized by the top civil servants in the First Division Association for carrying out the "Government's dirty work".

The Alliance is also seeking to recruit more staff to relieve the increased workload in important areas, which they believe has led to deteriorating standards throughout the Civil Service.

However, it is perhaps Mrs Thatcher's style of government, often operating in opposition to her own civil servants and ministers, which has particularly roused the anger of the opposition.

The Alliance points to the Westland affair, in which Mr Michael Heseltine stormed out of a Cabinet meeting after refusing to allow full collective discussions, as an obvious example of the need to reassert the safeguards of collective ministerial responsibility.

Civil servants have complained that they have been

required to carry out political tasks which are not their business. Most recently civil servants at the Department of Education and Science complained at the way Mr Kenneth Baker asked them for information on potentially contentious issues. The Labour Party offers few reforms in this area, apart from restoring the dividing line between civil servants carrying out government policy and in helping to promote party policy.

In marked contrast, the Alliance proposes a whole host of reforms. It would repeal Section Two of the Official Secrets Act and introduce a Freedom of Information Act, introduce a charter for the public service and set out unequivocally the rights and responsibilities of all public servants to ensure their protection from political pressure.

Dr David Owen has bitterly criticized Sir Robert Armstrong for carrying out a partisan role, acting too often as a spokesman of the Government rather than as the impartial head of the Civil Service. The SDP leader has given the impression that he would be one of the first casualties of any change of government.

ELECTION SUMMARY

Labour pledges more help for the disabled

Labour yesterday mapped out its plans to bring "a message of hope" to Britain's 5.5 million disabled, claiming that the Tories had "tricked and cheated" disabled people out of help intended for them by Parliament.

Mr Alf Morris, Labour's spokesman on the disabled, pledged a new and comprehensive interim scheme to help cover the extra cost of living for the disabled. He promised to restore to the Industrial Injuries Scheme cuts which have cost nine out of 10 claimants their benefit entitlement if injured at work.

Among other measures, Mr Morris told a Liverpool press conference that he would increase home helps and home adaptations, provide a new cash benefit for those caring for the disabled at home, reduce unemployment among the disabled and outlaw the discrimination he said they suffered in employment, recreation and many other fields.

Banners Farm vote row grows still Tory

The Prime Minister is facing a growing row over her visit to a Kent school, during which children were given Tory party banners to wave. The National Union of Teachers said yesterday it is considering legal action over the distribution of party hats, badges and banners at Walderslade School, Chatham on Monday.

The incident has led to protests from the Conservative chairman of Kent Education Committee, the school's headmaster and the chairman of the school's governors.

A postal survey of 1,000 farmers, conducted by *Farmers Weekly*, shows that Conservative support among them has slumped from 85 per cent in 1983 to 69 per cent. The Alliance has doubled its farming support to 23 per cent, and so has Labour, but only to 1.1 per cent.

In Scotland, the SNP has also doubled its farming support to more than 6 per cent, and Plaid Cymru has risen in Wales from 14.3 per cent in 1983 to 19. The poll showed farmers felt they had a raw deal under Tories.

Voting 'a duty' Liberal defects

A vicar told his parishioners yesterday that it is a sin not to vote in the forthcoming election.

The Reverend Peter Clark of St Nicholas Church in Newport, Lincoln, used his parish magazine to urge his flock to go to the ballot boxes.

"People have a sacred duty to vote. They should vote according to their conscience and not according to self-interest," he wrote.

A senior Liberal has left the party and joined Labour in protest over Alliance defence policy and what he described as Dr David Owen's "warmongering" remarks.

Mr Brian May was on the joint Liberal/SDP defence commission set up by Mr David Steel and Dr Owen to establish a common defence policy acceptable to both parties. But he was a dissenter of the final policy.

Cuts in aid attacked

Repeated cuts in government aid to the Third World under the Conservatives have each year totalled more than the entire amounts raised by all the Band Aid activities, the Labour Party said yesterday at the launch of a Fabian Society pamphlet on aid by Mrs Glenys Kinnock.

The generosity of the response to the crisis in Africa demonstrated the importance of aid in the minds of the British public. "But the activity of charities can never be enough," Mrs Kinnock said. "It is necessary for governments to provide aid, cut debt and pay fair prices to developing countries for their commodities."

Official aid spending in the eight years of Tory rule has been cut by 18 per cent, according to the pamphlet, called *Beyond Band Aid*. Labour's programme would double aid spending, Mrs Kinnock said.

Spectrum, page 10

The Times election coverage

Next Tuesday, as the election campaign reaches its climax, *The Times* will publish a complete four-page guide to the candidates and constituencies, the names of retiring MPs, and 1983 voting patterns.

On Friday, later editions of *The Times* will carry the latest constituency results of the election with reports from key areas around the country.

And on Saturday June 13, a special supplement will contain the results in full: every constituency detailed with voting figures, profiles of every member of the new House of Commons, and a full analysis of how the people voted.

Readers who do not already do so are advised to reserve their copy of *The Times* on that day.

SAYINGS OF THE DAY

● With nine million votes still to make up their minds, I sense that the British electorate is now itching to break out, once and for all, from the discredited strait-jacket of the past. *Mr David Steel*.

● The police are not Tory police and they should not be Labour or Liberal police either. *Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary*.

● Working class women are two to three times more likely to die before their time than those who are better off. *Labour spokeswoman on health*.

● We don't believe in doing things just for the sake of doing them. We don't believe in mucking around with British industry for dogmatic reasons. *Mr Denis Healey, Labour spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs*.

● Other than liberty itself, nothing is more important to the people of this country than the national health service. *Mr Neil Kinnock*.

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

There is a certain poignancy in the Alliance campaign, if the Alliance does badly next Thursday we may even look back and see some elements of tragedy in the way it has fought this battle.

Earlier this week I went with Mr Steel on a morning flip through West Yorkshire, and on Wednesday evening I attended one of the "Ask the Alliance" question and answer sessions conducted by the two Davids, this time before an audience of about 900 people in Nottingham.

On both occasions, but especially in Nottingham, there was much to approve. But I was always conscious of the two deficiencies that are dogging the Alliance. It is short of resources and it is trapped by the very nature of this contest.

There are two distinctive features in the Alliance's bid for support. At one level it is in search of tactical votes, which is hardly the most inspiring appeal that a political party can make. At another, much deeper, level it is wanting to change the way in which this country is governed.

Perhaps more and more people's thoughts will turn towards tactical voting over the next few days. This is essentially an issue for the final week of a campaign when it is easier to see where the real choice lies, both in the country as a whole and in individual constituencies. If the idea catches on the Alliance could still do better than is now expected.

But it would be neither edifying nor smart policies to concentrate during more than three weeks of electioneering on manoeuvring for tactical votes. The more the Alliance seems to be, deliberately

appealing to the Labour vote here and to the Conservative vote there, the more it gives the impression of campaigning under the banner: "Me Too, But Not So Much".

To be fair to the Alliance, it does have something more serious to say. But its constitutional proposals seem arid when set out as simple propositions. They have totally failed to capture the imagination of the country.

To have stood a chance of doing so they needed to be presented in broader context. Specific reforms needed to be related to the concentration of power and secrecy in government, which then needed to be related to the quality of decision-making, which in turn needed to be related to economic performance and the quality of social services.

It is not a train of thought which could easily be presented in one minute on television. The line of argument may reasonably be disputed. But the very nature of the appeal required a thoughtful campaign.

Instead we have had one dominated by the photo opportunity and subliminal advertising. The Alliance is not good at this style of campaigning, it lacks the resources for it and Dr Owen in particular has a distaste for it. Yet the Alliance has evidently felt trapped by it. So the campaign of the two Davids has been an uneasy compromise. When I went round with Mr Steel he began with a rather good speech at Brighouse that was as succinct and as substantive as he could reasonably have made it in the circumstances. But his other two stops were little more than photo opportunities.

The "Ask the Alliance" session in Nottingham was a serious exercise in informing the public as well as scoring political points. Dr Owen's answer on whether a person should have a legal right not to be penalized for refusing to strike was a model of how to take an audience through a problem.

But this kind of session does not really provide enough opportunity to get across a complicated line of reasoning. Major speeches, which would leave less time for competing in purely media events. But while the Alliance is not good enough at the new style of electioneering, it has not dared to put its faith in the old style.

ELECTION 87 X

Labour planning clamp on private health care

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

Britain's booming private health industry faces the surgeon's knife under a Labour government, it was confirmed yesterday.

The warning came as Mr Neil Kinnock and Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's chief health spokesman, played the party's trump card by launching a bitter attack on the Government's handling of the National Health Service, and promised "significant" cuts in prescription charges and an annual 3 per cent increase in health service spending in real terms.

Under Labour, pay beds in health service hospitals would be gradually phased out and consultants and surgeons on full health service salaries would have to spend less of their time doing private work.

The private health sector operating outside the National Health Service, which has flourished during the Thatcher years, would face strict regulation.

The clampdown would mean banning patients from queue-jumping by seeing consultants privately before getting National Health Service treatment. Patients can save much time in receiving treatment by that method.

Rules requiring consultants using health service facilities to pay the full going rate would be strictly enforced. Labour says that present checks are inadequate and many doctors get away with paying far below the proper amount for using health service equipment to treat private patients.

Consultants would be forced to work the required nine-eleventh of their time in the health service before they could claim a full salary. Labour believes that many

specialists are receiving full pay without working the required hours.

Mr Meacher said that the growth of the private sector had reached the stage at which it was clearly damaging the National Health Service. "Our objective is not ideological. It is purely to ensure everyone regardless of income, class or region gets the best treatment. We will shrink the private sector until we achieve that objective."

Mr Kinnock said: "We consider the problem is not the advantage enjoyed by the

general provision of the public service."

Mr Meacher said that if the Conservatives won the election they would introduce three health services instead of one. "There will be the service for the wealthy, who can afford £5,000 to jump the queue and go private; a service for those who have been chosen for priority treatment in the National Health Service; last, and least, a service for the rest, the great majority of people who need treatment."

Labour's claims, made at the party's morning press conference yesterday, that the Conservatives planned to introduce some changes for hospital care were dismissed as a scare by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services (our Political Reporter writes).

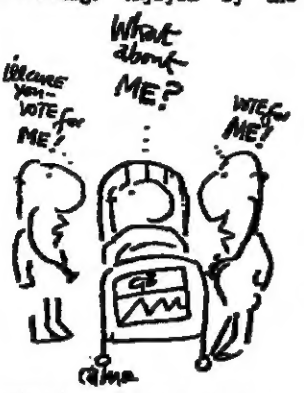
It came up at every election and was a measure of the Opposition's desperation, he said, insisting that the Government had no such plans.

Meanwhile, Mrs Margaret Thatcher defended her right to use private health insurance. It enabled her to go into hospital to suit her own convenience. "For me that's absolutely vital," she said.

However, she might find it necessary to use the NHS for a "very complicated operation because that is more expensive."

Mr Fowler, saying that the Opposition's priority package would cost £8 billion, not the £3.6 billion claimed, added that it was planning to give pensioners increases with one hand and take them away with another.

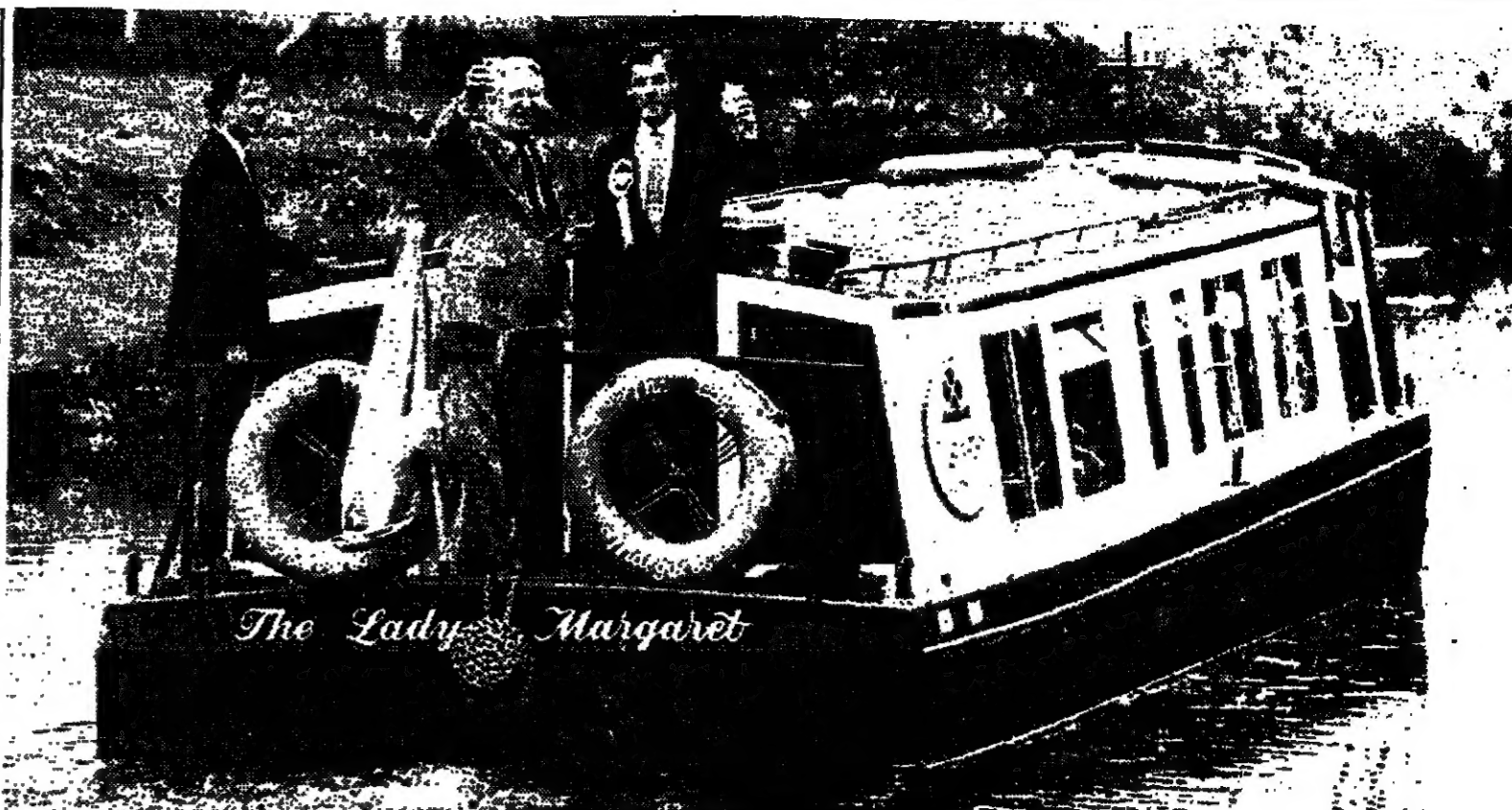
Labour's sky-high spending plans would wreck the economy and plunge the elderly into poverty.



minority, but the disadvantage thereby inflicted on the majority."

He added: "That is why we will be phasing pay beds from the National Health Service, ending the dependence of health service hospitals on the sale of facilities and why we will end the advantages secured by people in making private health provisions for themselves."

"I don't think we can forbid it. I do think it is necessary for people, if that is the service they want to use, to be much more entirely responsible for funding the whole of that service and not to be able to enjoy a borrowed vitality that is possible because of the



Mr Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, on board a canal narrow boat, The Lady Margaret, sailing down river near Glasgow yesterday during a visit to boost support for Mr Michael Hirst, Conservative candidate in the marginal Strathkelvin and Bearsden constituency.

Plaid Cymru plays the Scottish card

By Michael Binyon

Mr Llydd Elis Thomas, MP for Meirionnydd Nant Conwy since 1974 and leader of Plaid Cymru, has decided to "play the Scottish card".

In a vigorous demonstration of the party's tactical alliance between Britain's two Celtic nationalist parties, he told 200 enthusiastic Scottish National Party supporters in Dundee on Wednesday that it was not through the "leaving structures of the British state" that change would come only the peoples of Scotland and Wales could determine their nations' future.

Stirring stuff, and warmly applauded in Tayside. The nationalists in Scotland and Wales are in buoyant mood, hoping to more than double their present tally of two seats apiece.

Their informal alliance — more durable than the SDP-Liberal Alliance, Mr Thomas insists — is a shrewd move, designed to increase not only media attention but also the nationalists' political bargaining power. It is more, they insist, than an anti-English

front. Social policies, though not identical, are compatible and make the two natural political bed-fellows.

Here in Tayside, the SNP is hoping for a breakthrough that would replace the party with the gusto it once enjoyed in the heady 1970s.

Mr Gordon Wilson, the party leader, looks safe in Dundee East, defending a 5,000 majority. But a clean sweep of all five local seats, involving the overturn of a 10,000 Labour majority in Dundee West, would indeed be spectacular.

Nevertheless, things seem to be moving the SNP's way. Polls show more than half all Scots, including 28 per cent of Scottish Conservatives, now favour a Scottish assembly. One in four favours an independent country.

Overall support for the Conservatives has plummeted, with the latest poll giving the Tories only 19 per cent, the same as the Alliance and only 2 per cent ahead of the rising SNP.

But there is no doubt about Scottish grievances: the un-

certain future of Ravenscraig, the closure of Gartcosh steel mill, unemployment — still rising here — the rates revaluation of two years ago and the controversial proposed community tax, widely derided as a "poll tax", the oil industry dole, the feeling that Scotland has been left on the losing side in the North-South divide and used either as a place of political experiment or to dump nuclear waste.

But it is, above all, Mrs Thatcher's leadership that has antagonized many Scots. She is stereotypically English, an observer said. Scottish nationalists jubilantly repeat her alleged remark that "I'm an English nationalist and never you forget".

"Norman Tebbit Conservatism" is identified with the envious, affluent suburbs of the South-east, with a hard-nosed style far removed from the gentler grouse moor Conservatism of Macmillan and Lord Home which, in its heyday, captured more than half of the Scottish vote.

Significantly, both Mr Thomas and the SNP can-

didates have called for the defeat, not of the Conservatives, but of Thatcherism and the Thatcherites.

The left-of-centre programme has much in common with Labour's. Indeed the SNP draws support mainly from the same pool: the young, the working class, the poorer rural communities of the Western Isles.

But the crucial difference is the national question. It is here that the SNP is also wooing disaffected Tories, old Scottish Liberals who feel the Alliance has fallen too much under the influence of Dr David Owen. Labour voters who think the promise of devolution does not go far enough.

Total independence is still the ultimate aim. The model is a sovereign state such as Norway or Denmark, with membership of the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the EEC (a change from earlier positions) and, possibly, given sufficient guarantees of a changed nuclear strategy, of Nato also.

For Wales, independence is

economically unfeasible. In any case, Plaid's roots are more linguistic and cultural than political and economic like those of the SNP.

Mr Thomas is scornful of gestures such as storming out of Westminster. He warns the SNP against any separatism on Quebec lines and asked, on the day of Quebec's readmission to the Canadian federal fold, what would be the point of UDI or independence that was subsequently rejected in a future election.

Self-government, rather than independence, is the Welsh aim. Any step had to be legitimized by all the United Kingdom.

The SNP, in more realistic private talk, agrees. It plays down the hypothetical and says that future policy, which could include support for devolution as a first step, depends on its mandate on June 11.

For both nationalist parties, the ideal outcome on Thursday would be a hung Parliament, enabling them to bargain on devolution in return for support.

Heart boy in NHS crossfire

By Nicholas Wood and Jill Sherman

A boy aged 10 who was said to have been waiting 15 months for open heart surgery was at the centre of the relentless party political crossfire about the National Health Service yesterday.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, told a London press conference of the disappointments suffered by Mark Burgess, of Gravesend, Kent.

He said that the boy, who lives with his grandparents after his father had died in a car crash, had been promised numerous admission dates, but that every one had been cancelled because of nurse shortages and lack of resources.

Mr Kinnock said that Mark was due to be taken into Guy's Hospital in London last Monday, but when his grandparents phoned to check they were told all admissions had had to be cancelled.

"Mark Burgess is just one of the many seriously ill children being denied a critical operation because there is no room in hospital", Mr Kinnock said.

Mark's grandmother, Mrs Joan Burgess, said he was told in May last year that he had a large hole in the heart and his operation would be squeezed in between August and September.

In October the consultant told her that if Mark did not have surgery, his life span would be reduced to about 30 or 40 years.

The hospital admitted yesterday that 90 children were now waiting for non-urgent cardiac surgery, many of them for over a year.

But Miss Lyn Connor, paediatric administrator at Guy's Hospital, denied that the operation Mark needed was urgent.

Although the hospital had

the money to pay nurses they could not recruit them due to a national shortfall of paediatric nurses with intensive-care training.

Mr Kinnock's charges inevitably threw the Government on to the defensive.

Mrs Thatcher said that the Government could not be expected to manage every hospital and every waiting list.

Pointing out that the NHS treated 1 million people every week, she suggested that attention should also be directed to its achievements under her Government.

Mrs Thatcher said that ministers would investigate the case.

"We'll have a look at it, of course we will, because anyone who has a child in that condition will be almost desperate if they cannot get treatment."

TV's timely reminder of 'the other elections'

By Allan Massie

Channel 4 has been reminding English viewers of the other elections being fought. Last week they offered a report on the grim frozen politics of Ulster. They could not get Mr Gerry Adams of Sinn Féin on a panel with the other parties, a fact emphasizing that Ulster politics are about men's death, not their welfare.

The programme stressed the feebleness of the British parties, especially the Conservatives, with regard to Ulster. Why, if Ulster is indeed British, have they not sought election there? As long as they have the election in Ulster to the native parties, they confess that Northern Ireland is in some sense separate and they would not mind being shot of the place.

Does Scotland have to be separate, too? STV made the programme for Channel 4 apparently on the assumption that it does. The opening of the programme might have been a Labour Party commercial.

MEDIA WATCH

We were shown the Conservative conference at Perth. The strains of "Land of Hope and Glory" sounded, and captions recorded job losses at Caterpillar, British Rail Engineering, Gartcosh, Scott Lithgow. Heavy industry may be dying north of the Tweed, but heavily loaded reporting is in splendid health.

The real question, the presenter, Mr Colin Mackay, told us, was whether the Conservative Party could survive in Scotland. The latest System

Three opinion poll in the Glasgow Herald showed their support down at 19 per cent, only two points above the Alliance and the SNP, while Labour soared at 45 per cent. There was a real chance that all the Scottish Tories might be able to travel in two taxis.

There was a brief look at Easckilbride, where "life is as attractive as anywhere in the Tory Thames Valley, and home ownership stands at 40 per cent high by Scottish standards. Yet the two property owners interviewed held to their ancestral loyalty to Labour. I suppose it might have been possible to find Tory voters — 1,483 voted for the Earl of Balcarran in 1983, and they can't all have vanished — but to have done so would have contradicted

the programme's argument.

Eighty per cent of the companies in East Kilbride are non-union, but "the workforce still favour Labour". Maybe they will prove this on June 11, but in 1983 Labour won the seat with 17,535 votes, while 29,483 people divided their votes between the Alliance, the Conservatives and the SNP.

If we are to believe the journalist and former Tory candidate, Mr Michael Fry, the reason for Labour's popularity in Scotland is that "the system of government is a heavy train set up to dole out public expenditure to Scotland", and the Labour Party wields the spoon with more enthusiasm than the Tories.

If we are to believe Mr

Campbell Christie, general secretary of the STUC, Scotland depends on the traditional manufacturing industries of coal, steel and ship-building, in which context Mr Hattersley was glimpsed on a news programme promising to build ships. I suppose they could be bought in like wheat and butter.

Meanwhile, back on BBC1, Sir Robin's Election Call to two Green ladies reminded us that eccentricity and diversity are not restricted to what is mislabeled the Celtic fringe. The ladies talked quite a lot of sense. But the callers were more fun: "I'm a male housewife. I depend on income from my wife — I've got no complaints about that." Was this the voice of the feminist future?

Unionist strategy under the microscope

A crisis within Unionism since the Prime Minister signed the Anglo-Irish agreement is reflected in the Northern Ireland constituency of North Down.

Respectable, suburban and largely middle-class North Down has the distinction of being able to pass judgement on the tactics so far employed against the pact and an alternative Unionist policy for the future.

It is an apt area for such a test. For the constituency encompasses the luxury homes of the renowned "Gold Coast" overlooking Belfast Lough, the working-class estates of Dundonald and the commuter land of Bangor, is home for a breed known in the province as the "North Down Brits".

It is home for white-collar workers from Belfast, countless civil servants, and provides a safe haven for police and prison officers and comfortable retirement for pensioners.

Unemployment at 9 per cent is low by the province's standards and, apart from tourism in Bangor, a traditional "loyalist" holiday haunt, there is little large-scale industry.

It is the constituency of moderation with many of its residents valuing not only the link with Britain but also what that involves: playing a full role in parliamentary and ceremonial life.

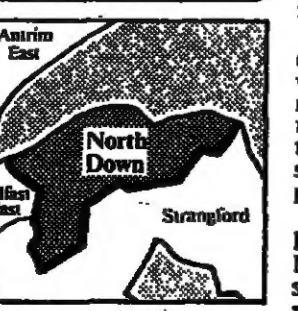
In this territory loyalists can pass judgement on Unionist absence from normal Westminster parliamentary practice since November 1985; the ineffectiveness of the local campaign against the agreement; the pan-Unionist pact

CONSTITUENCY PROFILE

Down North

CANDIDATES
J. Killedder (UPUP)
J. Cusnahan (All)
R. McCartney (All U)

1986 electorate — 84,976
1983 General Election: Killedder, J (UPUP) 22,861; Cusnahan, J (All) 8,015; McCartney, R (All U) 8,261; O'Boyle, C (SDLP) 948; Maj 13,846.



between the old rivals, the Official Unionists, and the Democratic Unionists; and the movement aimed at persuading mainland British parties to put up candidates in elections in the province.

For North Down is a Unionist-held seat that has the choice of choosing different strategies and brands of loyalism. Under a pact agreed with the OUP and DUP all sitting Unionist MPs were to have a free run.

That included Mr James Killedder, even though he left the OUP in 1979 to form the Ulster Popular Unionist Party. The local OUP constituency association decided otherwise and selected Mr Robert McCartney, the driving force behind the integrationist Campaign For Equal Citizenship.

His leadership of the campaign and his forthright criticism of the OUP hierarchy led to his expulsion from the party at the outset of the campaign and earlier this week the whole constituency association was expelled for defying party headquarters.

Undeterred, Mr McCartney, aged 51 and a QC, is campaigning with all the vig-

our of a man who believes he can achieve a big political upset and in the process humble his old party.

"I offer an end to sectarian politics, a policy that will effectively strengthen the union, and the service of someone who is tolerably articulate, and will have the professional expertise to argue the Unionist case for them. I think the people of Northern Ireland and North Down want someone of whom they can be proud," he said.

But his vituperative attack on his former party and its pact with the DUP may rebound on him as the wider majority community is anxious for Unionist unity.

The man he must beat has a reputation as a formidable vote-gatherer and in 1983 Mr McCartney, standing as an Official Unionist, came a poor third. Mr James Killedder, aged 58, and a barrister, has held the seat since 1970 on the reputation of good constituency work and, until recently, a high public profile, although he enjoys the tacit backing of the DUP.

His continued success is a source of amazement to other

politicians as his campaign tactics are, to say the least, idiosyncratic.

In 1983 he refused to put up election posters because he wanted to protect the environment from such unsightly things and in this campaign is trying to resist pressure from supporters to take a new line on the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Asked how he will run what he admits will be a tough fight, Mr Killedder disarmingly said: "Oh, I shall stand in the market, say hello to a few people and then drive round in my car and wave. I don't think people want posters as they are always put up in the wrong places and I am certainly not in favour of any loyalist band whipping up support. That isn't North Down at all."

He emphasizes his constituency record, Unionist unity and his support for devolution. "The way forward is for

an elected local assembly, not the irrelevance of Mr McCartney's ego trip," he says.

Mr Killedder is aware of the yearning among his constituents for Unionist politicians to return to Westminster and has undertaken that he will work at Westminster to persuade MPs to take a new line on the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Mr John Cusnahan, the Alliance Party leader who came second in 1983, now hopes that the bitter split in the Unionist camp will allow him to come through the middle to victory.

His opposition to boycotts, whether at Westminster or on local councils, to illegal parades and stunt politics, allied with unequivocal support for the police and dialogue between the communities, should find fertile ground in North Down.

Richard Ford



Mr Robert McCartney campaigning in Bangor Market

Electoral cost of the 'Proctor factor' has still to be counted

A homosexual scandal, which forces the resignation of the sitting MP and the arrival of an unknown replacement candidate three weeks before polling day, should make for a significant dent in the Conservative vote.

So goes one argument in Billericay, the commuter-belt constituency in Essex relinquished last month by Mr Harvey Proctor after his liaison with male prostitutes. But this view finds little credence in the Tory camp now led by Mrs Teresa Gorman, aged 46, a former Westminster City councillor, who inherits a majority of almost 15,000.

She is confident of maintaining that lead. "There is a certain degree of contention here, but now they have somebody totally new and different and they are re-identifying very strongly with the Conservative Party."

CONSTITUENCY PROFILE

Billericay

CANDIDATES
Mrs T. Gorman (C)
M. Birch (SDP/All)
R. Howitt (Lab)

1981 % Own occ — 75.6
1981 % Loc auth — 19.3
1981 % Black/Asian — 1.4
1981 % Mtd of — 57.7
1981 % Prof man — 19.4
1986 electorate — 79,560

1983 General Election: Proctor, KH (C) 29,836; Sewell, C (Lab) 15,020; Bonner, E (Lib/All) 10,528; Maj 14,615

Her opponents see her as the outsider selected to bypass differences which opened during the Proctor affair between Tories. But Mrs Gorman said the local executive committee "wanted someone who had no affiliations with any of the groups in the constituency".

An extrovert, energetic woman, she describes herself variously as "middle-aged and mumsy" and not so much dry in political terms as "arid".

That should go down well in an area that has a strong element of right-wing and Monday Club support, originally from the East End of London and now resident in the council estates near the oil refineries at Corringham.

A fervent believer in more private ownership of council blocks, Mrs Gorman sees problems of transport to and from the capital, education

and the high cost of housing as the issues of the campaign.

The constituency has rolling countryside with villages, slice of the outskirts of Basildon New Town and prosperous Billericay. Unemployment is around 3,500 in a voting electorate of more than 80,000.

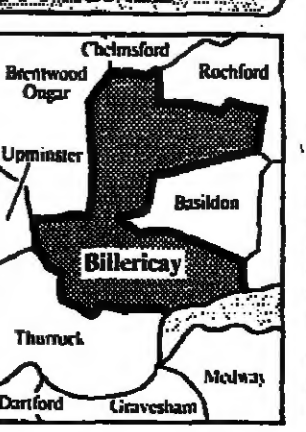
At Wickford, where five of the six council wards are held by the Alliance, residents are concerned about pay more than £1,000 a year if their London season tickets

One of them is the Alliance candidate, Mr Mike Birn aged 42, a computer man and local councillor, who cautions about predicting effect of the "Proctor factor" and thinks many local people have yet to decide how vote.

Dissatisfaction with Tory claim that more is spent on the health service despite the local experience of ward closures will be a issue, he believes.

The Labour candidate, Richard Howitt, aged 26, ordinario with a centre for physically handicapped, the constituency was a ta seat and that the Proctor scandal had divided Tories. Campaigning in Laini where support for Labour strong, he said the local health authority was list of 6,000 "phenomena house prices and a shortage full-time teachers would the main issues.

Peter Mullis



Red rose among the grass roots

As well as playing a glamorous but strangely mute supporting role, Glenys Kinnock has been allotted six days of solo campaigning. Barbara Amiel joins her

She is a breath of summer in cotton pastels as she walks into the pre-breakfast gloom of Heathrow's super-shuttle departure lounge. Curiously enough, the grey-faced commuters lining up for their mugs of coffee do not seem to notice Mrs Glenys Kinnock, in spite of the red rose in the lapel of her pink and white seersucker suit. She is accompanied by three women all sporting roses, none of whom admit to job titles or seniority.

"We're old friends and we all muck in," they explain. But Nita Clarke, once an assistant to Ken Livingstone and now press officer at the Inner London Education Authority, carries the portable phone that denotes power in political campaigns these days.

The flight to Edinburgh is delayed for 45 minutes and Mrs Kinnock and her party stay put, perched on a corner grouping of chairs. There are no photographers, only two print journalists and no special treatment from British Airways. No one approaches her during the hour she spends in the lounge in spite of the fact that Mrs Kinnock remains standing, very visible, talking vivaciously and looking around hopefully.

Glenys Kinnock remains an enigmatic factor in the Labour Party campaign. Of all the political spouses in the campaign she ought to be the most visible. Unlike Denis Thatcher or Debbie Owen, Mrs Kinnock has been involved in politics, as the legend goes, since she was pushed about in her pram while her father handed out Labour Party leaflets in 1945. She is a distinctly attractive woman and a polished hand-shaker. But she has not had the platform that all these assets ought to generate. There is a definite sense that she has been put on a back burner of the stove.

"Not at all," she says strongly. "Do I look like I'm being played down? I opened a Citizens' Advice Bureau in Neil's constituency. I've written an introduction for a pamphlet. I continue to do all the things I've always done."

Nita Clarke springs to her support. "The party has scheduled six days for Mrs Kinnock to campaign alone," she says, "and everyone wants her."

Two factors seem to work against her. One, of course, is the feeling that her



Glenys Kinnock aboard the Stirling mobile crèche: "I've been around long enough... I've never committed any gaffe. I don't pronounce on Labour Party issues."

independent political views, including her well known activism in the unilateral nuclear disarmament movement, smack a little too much of Labour's hard left. Mrs Kinnock's membership of CND and her support of the Greenham Common women just doesn't sit well with the Labour Party's new moderate look. Her views in these areas may be a perfectly accurate reflection of both the Labour Party's manifesto and Mr Kinnock's own ideas on defence, but all the same Mrs Kinnock's stance is evocative of policy consequences that are best left muted. I put that view to her.

"Nonsense," says Mrs Kinnock. "It is ludicrous to suggest that I am anything other than on the soft left of the Labour Party. I've been around long enough in this business and I've never committed any gaffe. I don't pronounce on Labour Party issues and I never have. I've

always had my own political involvements that I'm interested in."

This touches on the other factor that may be the reason for the low-key use of Mrs Kinnock, the feeling that the Brits don't like the idea of a wife or independent spouse of a politician with strong beliefs. "I am as I can be," says Mrs Kinnock. "But he makes up his own mind. I'm not standing for election so I don't have as if I am. But I am a citizen and I am entitled to my views."

Perhaps one suspects at her very strong commitment to feminism and the causes she espouses, an less malleable than those of her husband; that the normal political ability to compromise will be compromised in cosy discussions in the kitchen or bedroom.

"There are no camera crews

downstairs," whispers one of the women as we walk to the airport exit. Mrs Kinnock stops and pulls out her compact. She tenses slightly, waits, and then pushes forward. The day has begun.

It is cold, wet and windy in Edinburgh. Mrs Kinnock has no coat, only a thin cotton summer suit. She is not wearing the power shoulder pads today, this is power. This is a day to visit the elderly, the handicapped and children. The skirt is unfashionably long and if there is a new campaign wardrobe, which she strenuously denies, this is the very low-key component. All day long she will refuse to wear a mac or use an umbrella. "It's good for my complexion," she says as she stands out in the cold.

The camera crews and photographers are waiting at the first stop, a visit to Stockbridge Primary School. Mrs Kinnock, a primary school teacher by

profession, is an instant hit. The children are enchanted by her. Mrs Kinnock herself is pleased by progressive signs.

"Good," she says, seeing 11-year-old David Secchi sitting at a sewing machine. "Nice to see a young man sewing." David turns out to be less certain. "I don't like it much," he tells me afterwards. Meanwhile, Mrs Kinnock amuses the children by examining their teeth and guessing their ages. "You must be six," she says to a set of front spaces. "There are always gaps then." One is hard put to picture any of the other political spouses with this ability.

The camera opportunities multiply. She watches the class perform their new song, but before she joins the line to sing with them ("I'm a supernatural sprite") an interviewer from Scottish television wants to make a few hard points.

"Aren't these children a little young to canvass, Mrs Kinnock?" she asks. Mr Kinnock might have bristled. Mrs Kinnock takes it smoothly: "I'm not trying to canvass them, just get to know them."

"Are you impressed with the display they put on for you?" asks the interviewer. There is no tripping Glenys on that one. "I'm sure they didn't put it on for me," she says. "This is the sort of high standard they are reaching for themselves."

The highlight of the day is a visit to the Margaret Blackwood Housing for the disabled - low-built homes converted for wheelchair use. "It's integrated," explains one of the staff. "We have the elderly, wheelchair-bound, ambulant disabled and able-bodied here." Mrs Kinnock nods approvingly at the word "integrated".

The homes are modest, neatly furnished and sitting in pools of mud. Mrs Kinnock leans forward sympathetically in one of them to Mr and Mrs William McIntyre. The wife sits with their infant, pregnant with the next. The young husband has multiple sclerosis. They are thrilled with their new home. "What we want," says Mrs Kinnock, "is more of this sort of housing. More. Only Labour cares."

The couple ask her to give their best wishes to her husband. They do not know - and Mrs Kinnock does not emphasize - that it is Conservative government funds that have paid for the adaptation of this housing.

The last stop is at Stirling Castle where the Labour district council has purchased an old double-decker bus that has been turned into a mobile crèche. The bus has sand boxes and bean bags and video games. It is for use in rural areas and will accommodate 20 children.

"We need it," says Labour candidate Michael Connarty enthusiastically to Mrs Kinnock. "The constituency is 800 square miles." She nods in agreement, although it is not clear what relevance this has unless the children are to be bussed around all day.

Mrs Kinnock settles happily into a bean bag on the top deck with children all around her. The television crew squeeze in as well. For a moment, it has the feeling of a Thatcher media session but a long conversation about scuffed shoes with two six-year-olds won't get the same sort of coverage.

Outside the bus, a lone dissenter buttonholes me and says he is worried about Labour's defence policy. "What good will this bus be if they come at us from the skies?" he asks.

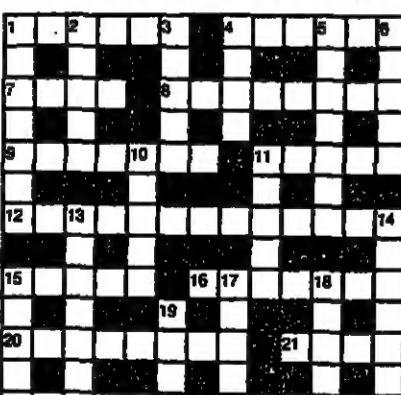
Then Mrs Kinnock comes out of the bus. "She's a real smasher, isn't she?" he says, and goes forward to shake her hand.

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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1275

ACROSS

- 1 Weeping (6)
- 4 Ship's accountant (6)
- 7 Chances (4)
- 8 Underbody (8)
- 9 Peaceful, gentle (7)
- 11 Sensitive wounds (5)
- 12 Shares market (5,8)
- 15 Promote (5)
- 16 Floor show (7)
- 20 Calvary (8)
- 21 Winged (4)
- 22 Yelped (6)
- 23 Metal foil decoration (6)



DOWN

- 1 Wearing apparel (7)
- 2 Mountain song (5)
- 3 Small lizard (5)
- 4 Ceremonial display (5)
- 5 Highlander's pouch (7)
- 6 Coral ridges (5)
- 10 Bumpkin (5)
- 11 Indian man's title (5)
- 13 Undulate (5)
- 14 Extend over (7)
- 15 Hold spellbound (7)
- 16 Soaked with liquid (5)
- 17 Separate (5)
- 18 Undulate (5)
- 19 Football boot projection (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 1274

- ACROSS: 1 Demise 4 Jubbed 9 Agrapha 10 Razor 11 Bell 12 Inwards 14 Red-hot Poker 18 Hauteur 19 Oost 22 Rhine 24 Util-ity 25 Needle 26 Impede
- DOWN: 1 Dreg 2 Merge 3 Sepulchre 5 Air 6 Bizarre 7 Dures 8 Sagittarius 11 Bar 13 Neologism 15 Erudite 16 Rot 17 Charon 20 Seize 21 Byre 23 Bel

Party stopwatches that rule the airwaves

With the parties monitoring every programme for balance, are the broadcasting media becoming over-cautious?

In a small cubicle on the first floor of Labour party headquarters in Walworth Rd, south London, Jo Owen sits, clipboard and stopwatch in hand, ready to monitor BBC's Six O'Clock News. Her job, in the words of party boss, Julian Eccles, head of Labour's media monitoring unit, is to "need, log and assess".

She notes and times each item on the bulletin. At the end she fills in a programme analysis sheet recording the total time devoted to each party, the issues covered (agriculture, youth on a scale of 1 to 29) the prominence given to them and further remarks. A sheet on an earlier LBC phone-in programme records succinctly: "Lord Young v. Attila, bad-tempered."

Eccles says his unit's job is

to "look for the prominence of different issues and the treatment of different parties, particularly Labour."

"We have fairly well attuned political antennae," he says. "We look at things like use of graphics, photos and polls. We watch how a producer serves up the presenta-

tion of issues, how obsessed he is with the so-called loony Left or with spurious lists of Labour candidates. We're not stopwatch fanatics, we're not doing a snapshot job on one programme. But if there are trends in a programme or network during a week, we inform our campaign co-ordinator, Bryan Gould, and he takes appropriate action."

Labour declined to say what action had been taken so far in this election. Eccles would only say on the record that one party (he did not say which) had been getting more coverage than the others.

Media monitoring has become a phenomenon of this campaign. All the main parties are doing it. As a result broadcasters and newspaper journalists have noted a marked increase in complaints from political parties over the vexed question of impartiality.

London Weekend Television's head of current affairs, David Cox, complained this week about the Conservative party chairman, Norman Tebbit, pressing his company's *Weekend World* to give the Tory defence spokesman, George Younger, the final word in last Sunday's programme on defence. He claimed Tebbit had threatened to withdraw Younger from the debate if his wishes were not followed.

So strong has this type of leaning on the media become (usually at an informal level) that commentators suggest it threatens to become intol-



All square? The Alliance media monitoring unit, ever vigilant

eration about the advance movements of major politicians. One BBC reporter explained: "If we find Kinnock is making a major speech somewhere we have to make sure we have an item of equal importance about Conservative and Alliance politicians in order to keep the balance."

The BBC's trepidation results from obligations under its charter to be impartial and fair. ITN has similar responsibilities. At election time these pressures are intensified by two more factors: the agreement between broadcasters and politicians over

allocation of party political broadcasts and the Representation of the People Act (RPA). In this election each party has five 10-minute broadcasts. Both BBC and ITN try to keep to this 5:5:5 ratio in the amount of time they give to the parties. (In the last election, before the Alliance threatened to take the BBC to court, it was 5:5:4; in 1979 5:5:3. Curran says disapprovingly that in securing this concession from the broadcasters in advance of proportional representation, "broadcasting has preceded political change.")

The Act says, among other things, that if you film one candidate in a constituency, you have to film them all.

John Wilson, head of BBC Radio's news and current affairs, says that although daily logs of the time allotted to each party are kept, his aim is to achieve overall balance over the duration of the campaign. Glyn Matthias, assistant editor at ITN, says his organization does much the same.

But there is more to it than that. David Cox of LWT sums up: "Pressure from politicians is all part of the cut and thrust of broadcasting. If Mr Tebbit rings me up I can always tell him to get lost. But all this stuff about stopwatches shows up the feebleness of broadcasters. It has made election coverage much more boring than it should be."

Andrew Lycett

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Tories	—	.1%
Labour	—	.1%
Alliance	—	.1%
Others	—	.1%
Dingbats	—	.1%

Yes! This above figures are the results of the latest massive scientific opinion poll, carried out by me personally. As unbiased leader of the Dingbat Party, I can inform our readers that "Washington" brilliant and why now board game is more fun than all those boring old parties put together. Take it on holiday and you'll see what I mean!

Polling stations at all good toy shops.

SATURDAY

Rory and his forte

More thought goes into Rory Bremner's Ronald Reagan (left) than the President would believe. Tomorrow *The Times* looks at the politicians you won't be seeing during the election



Miami advice

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THE TIMES DIARY

Hanning matter

More allegations about the Conservatives' anti-CND campaign before the last election. They centre on the 1982 resignation of Hugh Hanning as director of the British Atlantic Committee, an all-party charity, only a year after his re-election. Hanning had negotiated a Whitehall grant to step up the BAC's NATO promotions, but was thought politically unsound by some Tory backbenchers, one of whom told him he should publicly back Trident, a clear party line. Douglas Hurd, then at the Foreign Office, is said to have asked Sir Neil Cameron, the BAC's president, to remove Hanning from the campaign. Hanning yesterday said that until Cameron reported the ultimatum he had received no criticism from any government department. "I resigned because Neil was terminally ill. He was a friend. A public row would have done him no good, let alone the cause of NATO." Hanning, once a Macmillan Tory, now a Liberal, praises the BAC for preserving its non-partisan status. James Wellbeloved, the former SDP MP and BAC council member, tells me: "I think there was unreasonable political interference in BAC's independence."

Wrong box

Just two days after Labour's candidates for the two Reading constituencies predicted disaster if the Post Office was privatised, confusion at the local post office meant that at least 1,000 of their election addresses were delivered to each other's patches. The Green and the Alliance parties' leaflets were also misdirected but the Tories, who used an alternative Post Office delivery system for their material, were unaffected. Labour is thinking of taking legal action over the mistake, which took place over 48 hours.

Copping it

Scotland Yard has issued a warning to its men about their after-hours conduct, following last month's suspension of five London policemen amid allegations of a fight during a trip to France. In a memo to chief superintendents, headed "Police officers—social functions", Assistant Commissioner Colin Sutton says that though he will not impose supervision at social functions misbehaving officers can expect the "full vigour of the disciplinary process to be brought to bear upon them". Sutton's headmasterly tone, however, is nothing to the instructions received by officers about the kind of plain clothes they should wear at last month's Police Federation conference. Senior officers told delegates that suits—not T-shirts—would be the order of the day. And they were.

King's ransom



Lord King, chairman of British Airways, was on hand when an entire British Caledonian 17-man crew was stranded without proper documentation in Moscow earlier this week. King, who had flown in on one of his own 747s in early evening, arrived to find his Moscow manager worrying about the welfare of his rivals, who were in the Soviet Union to service a new route to Tokyo. The crew had been stopped by border guards as they left their flight because the personnel list sent ahead by BCal was missing—aircraft don't need visas. But within an hour or so of the peer's intervention they were on their way to their hotel.

Things to do

Gentleman's Quarterly, the glossy fashion and "lifestyle" magazine, is marking its 30th anniversary this month by publishing a list of 99 things an American gentleman should have done by the age of 30. They include: own a power drill, a dinner jacket and a hat (not ski or baseball); be able to choose a ripe melon, sew on a button and throw out a dead mouse; have spent a night in one of the following: jail, whorehouse, monastery, or youth hostel; have had six nights he couldn't remember the next day; know whether a flush or a straight is better and why. What will the next 40 years entail, I wonder.

Number's up

Candidates subjected anyway to the hazards of baby kissing and journalists hardly expected to fall foul of pensioners. That, however, was the fate that befell Peter Rost, fighting to retain Erewash in Derbyshire for the Tories, when he tried to enter an OAP bingo session. Rost tells that he was tardily through the door when he was grabbed by a slight pensioner with strapping arms who informed him that he was not welcome. No amount of arguing would persuade her otherwise. Rost tells me: "It's the first time I've been out-cued from a bingo hall."

PHS

One of the liberating privileges of being "a church leader" is that you know that you are on a hiding to nothing, and that, unlike the politician, this is the way of fulfilling one's calling. If you keep quiet, "the church" is accused of silence at a critical time. If you speak specifically, you are accused of improper bias. If you speak generally, you are accused of irrelevance. If you deal with pointed secular questions—remember the urban bishops—you are accused of saying nothing different and nothing religious.

If you talk about sin, forgiveness and redemption, you are accused of theological platitudes with no earthly meaning. So you are free to risk trying to say what you think God is helping you to think, and then leaving it to Him—for use, for forgiveness or for simple oblivion.

God is very disturbing—both for religious people who want religion to protect them from the world, and for worldly people who do not want to be reminded or confronted by anything more than their own ideas, aims, achievements and enjoyments.

This is one reason why "church leaders" are bound to be clobbered. Very few people want them to be really, simply and directly relevant. It would make a disturbing difference. The other reason is we can be as irrelevant, mistaken or misplaced as anyone else.

But unlike political leaders, at least most of the current brand, we know we are often in the wrong and are offered the faith and the hope to cope with this. But in a worldly way, as church leaders do not have to be re-elected, we can afford to acknowledge we are often in the wrong. Can politicians?

If they cannot, we are in for a hell of a time—and perhaps a short one if we cannot find ways very quickly of negotiating down the nuclear stockpiles. It is urgently necessary that God—directly or indirectly—should disturb us out of our present

God, bishops, Tories and the election

by David Jenkins
Bishop of Durham

postures and anti-postures. Because of media concentration and manipulation the political gladiators are presented as fighting over secondary issues, such as style or personality, and the underlying long-term issues go unnoticed and unaddressed.

The public spectators remain bored, bemused and managed. Is democracy sustained by this sort of thing? Is this what humanity is about? Perhaps God should be heard saying something like the following.

The world is not for consumption so that those who can cream the market may eat, drink and be merry for we all die. The world is for sustenance, for uses related to neighbourliness, offering and celebration and simple enjoyment.

Freedom is not for individual competitiveness or purely private choice. But for painful yet exciting and rewarding growth into selves who overcome both dependence and interdependence which enriches all or at least sustains a creative balance and tension between privacy and commonality.

Power is to be exercised in the knowledge that you are often wrong and in the wrong. This is because of sheer prudence—who certainly knows what? Simple

humility—why do we know better? And a hope for democracy—other people really do matter as much as we do. The risks you are prepared to take show where your heart and treasure is. So must you always risk other people's prosperity rather than your own?

Such things suggest that the current Tory prospectus is false. It is essentially backward-looking and blinkered. It is essentially selfish. It is backward looking because it assumes that 19th century capital drives provide viability for a 21st century world.

But the current enterprise culture and rampant free market are simply not sustainable. The ecology of the world will not stand constant expansion of our present types of consumption. The operations of the system are inherently unstable and turbulent. Competitiveness is sustained by the constant defeat of rivals. A global financial market, computerized to respond to its own responses, is increasingly unstable and increasingly artificial—you can make money while it lasts; can you generate recyclable wealth?

Debts pile up. And the whole truth simply does not care for those who are not well off or not able to cope. The increasing rich-poor gap is an immense threat to

stability, let alone morality. And the rewards system does vividly put a premium on indecent and obscene greed.

So, whatever the morals and convictions of particular persons committed to the system as a whole the system does not care for the future, does not care for the neighbour and does not care for the moral—once it is clear that morality must have as much a relational dimension as an individual one.

We are faced, therefore, with short-term gains, self-consumption and threat of long-term destruction—of the environment, of the poor, and of social viability.

There are no simple answers to this, but no simple answers to our false simplicities. It is essential, therefore, through and beyond the election, to press the simple questions about the environment and the future and about the neighbour and basic moralities. At the moment these questions do not have sufficiently clear practical answers to fit the circumstances of our times.

This is part of the reason why the false and backward looking prospectus in this election is faced by only faint alternatives. Alternative paths forward are unclear, are disagreed about and need much more thinking and working out. So a convinced—but misled—minority looks like being able to work the electoral system against the wishes and feelings of the majority.

Our hope must lie in God, in democracy and in a readiness for a hard rethinking—repentance. Together—and this will surely include many Conservatives who are concerned with the organic and the pragmatic in politics rather than the dogmatic and the individualistic—we must work out a new economics to sustain the world, a new realism to contain our own consumerism and a new collaboration to share the best we can get from one another through one another.

David Pryce-Jones on territories that undermine Jewish democracy

Where Israel melts



A young Arab labourer in the Gaza Strip waits for a bus to take him to work in the Israeli economy

needless to say, the local Palestinians were most unwillingly caught in the middle, often terrorized to assist the PLO, then punished by Israel if they did so. A small proportion opted for a career with the Israelis, another small proportion with the PLO. Judiciously applying sticks and carrots, the Israelis succeeded in separating out the violent PLO element from the bulk of the population, and more or less eliminating it. At the conclusion of the Jordanian civil war, with pitiful symmetry, a remnant of the PLO actually sought refuge in Israel.

Since then, communal tensions have been contained. All the same, the triangular lock has forced Israel against its democratic institutions and values into the Arab socio-political order. Pre-1967 Israel was an autonomous Jewish state with a loyal Arab minority. Post-1967 Palestine contains a Jewish majority with quite a different Arab minority, a large part of it unincorporated and unincorporated.

At current demographic projections, the Arabs will have a majority some time early in the next century. What used to be the state of Israel has been breached and is increasingly resembling a large-scale or regional version of that ancient confessional living arrangement, the reserved quarter of the city into which Muslims used to segregate Jews.

An Israeli civilian administrator runs the occupied areas, and his decrees supplement Jordanian law. Fewer than 1,000 soldiers garrison the West Bank; there are fewer still in Gaza. King Hussein and Israel each pay the lucky civil servants or municipal employees, and combine to keep open the bridges over the River Jordan. West Bank produce is exported profitably into wider Arab markets, while Arab visitors enter the West Bank peacefully in their hundreds of thousands. Subsidies and gifts flow in from Amman in amounts which are secret and beyond guessing.

Some 60,000 Israelis live in about 120 settlements on the West Bank, many of them Potemkin-style prefabrications. The huge proportion of such settlers form an overspill from Tel-Aviv or Jerusalem, and are within short commuting distance of those cities. In spite of their residence, these settlers have full rights in Israel. Correspondingly, West Bankers retain Jordanian citizenship.

Life is, of course, stronger than politics, and so the communities mingle and interact at every level, from business and commerce down to the underworld. Is this merely ingenuity? Is it progress, or change of identity, or both, or neither? Already on closer terms than they expected or wished, Israelis and Palestinians find themselves in a melting-pot in which everything is becoming inextricably mixed, but which—to express the image—does not actually melt into an agreed and viable political form for the two communities.

One day the triangular power lock will be broken, in circumstances which cannot possibly be foretold. The breaking will none the less decide whether there are to be winners and losers, or equals, as everyone has the right to hope.

Since 1967, Israel has had the unexpected and strange fate of being the only indigenous society in the Middle East to test whether democratic constitutionalism is compatible with the all-embracing Arab socio-political order, and if it is, what then happens.



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The author was a war correspondent during the Six-Day War and is writing a book on Arab history and politics.

Science: stranded in the swinging Sixties

not. After all, Britain has won more Nobel prizes per capita than any other nation, but our economy has been outstripped by countries such as Japan who have invested little in basic science. University science funding becomes an investment only if every other link in the chain is healthy; if industrial applied science thrives; if industry is well managed, the trade unions co-operative, the distributive trades efficient, investment generous and market research perceptive.

The 1960s expansion has meant that there are now few vacancies for new lecturers. For, once appointed, academics cannot be dismissed, however badly they might perform.

No one is asking for a reign of terror, but could not every lecturer who had failed to win promotion by, say, 45, be required to reapply for the job? If the reapplication

was unsuccessful, generous redundancy could be provided.

Inadequate funding for research has long caused concern. At present, a third of alpha (excellent) rated grant applications cannot be funded for lack of resources. Yet Mr Christopher Ball, the Warden of Keble College, Oxford, and the chairman of the National Advisory Board for Public Higher School Education, claims £300m a year is dispensed inefficiently.

Research laboratories receive government money through two sets of agencies: the Research Councils and the University Grants Committee (UGC). The Research Councils distribute money competitively, funding highly-rated projects, but they provide only the running costs for these projects. Equipment, building and maintenance, and the provision of technicians and sec-

retaries, are the responsibility of the UGC.

The UGC distributes its monies equally between the universities: thus bad laboratories are over-funded by £300 million, while good ones are under-funded. Perhaps the UGC research funds should be transferred to the Research Councils, who could then concentrate on those laboratories that win competitive grants.

Salaries provide further concern. The universities find it hard to attract good academics in fields such as electronics, and top professors in all areas are constantly being lured to America. The solution, as government has suggested, is simple—negotiable salaries.

The costs of scientific research are rising rapidly, and government funding will never meet the cost. Yet scientists berate the government, while ignoring the possibilities for internal reform.

Terence Kealey

The author is a senior research fellow in clinical sciences at Oxford University.

John Grigg

The defenders Europe needs

Like most British prime ministers since the war, Mrs Thatcher has seriously overplayed the Anglo-American card, while underplaying or neglecting the European. Apart from Anthony Eden, who defied America on quite the wrong issue, and Edward Heath, who got the balance about right, all our leaders since 1945 have been obsessed by the idea of a special relationship with the United States.

Mrs Thatcher's close political liaison with President Reagan is now equally damaging to herself and the country. His personal endorsement of her cannot be much of an electoral asset, in view of his blasted reputation; while he has given, unwittingly, considerable assistance to the Labour Party with his suggestion that nuclear weapons are peculiarly immoral. Deeply confused himself, he has helped to confuse the most important issue in our election.

To a pacifist the use of any weapons, in any circumstances, is morally heinous, and that is an honourable, coherent view. But there is no justification in logic or ethics for saying that some weapons are evil, while others are not so, or less so, merely because their lethal power is less. The question to ask is not which weapons could kill most people if they were used, but which weapons are being used and therefore (obviously) killing most people. By that test nuclear weapons are far more "moral" than knives or handguns.

Mrs Thatcher is unable to attack Mr Reagan's silly views on nuclear weapons and disarmament, or to draw the right conclusions from them, because she has two myths to preserve: that of her own uniquely valuable relationship with him, and that of Britain's uniquely valuable relationship with America. Labour, for its part, is unlikely to attack silly views that it shares, even when uttered by a president who is backing Mrs Thatcher.

Only the Alliance shows any sign of grasping the point that Reykjavik and the zero option underline the necessity for a more self-contained and self-reliant European defence system. Instead of the madness of unilateral nuclear disarmament by Britain, the proper alternative to Trident must be close co-operation with the other European nuclear power, France, to maintain a credible deterrent on this side of the Atlantic, until general and balanced disarmament can be negotiated.

Despite the linguistic and other differences, France is our natural ally, because it is a country of roughly the same size, with many shared interests and values, and separated from us by only 30 miles. The United States is not, to the same degree, our natural ally, despite the linguistic, legal and other affinities, because it is a vast continental superpower 3,000 miles away.

In many respects the French have shown more sense than we

have since 1945. Even in recent years, when a socialist experiment was tried and failed, there was never any question of abandoning the policy of national defence established by de Gaulle and accepted by all parties, from far right to far left. The lack of such an agreed policy here is one of our greatest misfortunes.

Should Labour win on the 11th, and then set about dismantling our nuclear defences, the battle of Waterloo (whose anniversary falls a week later) would be avenged, because France would be in default, a primary in Western Europe that even Napoleon failed to achieve, since he never managed to subdue Britain. As the only nuclear power in Western Europe, France would undeniably become the leading nation in our part of the world.

It is, however, a status that the French today do not seek. They would much prefer to share the responsibility—and the cost—with us. But if we refuse to work with them they will carry the burden alone. No French president or prime minister of the left would go the Kinnock way and will any French leader, left or right, go the Thatcher way, with excessive dependence on the United States?

Conservative defence policy and Labour non-defence policy alike rest on the assumption that the Americans will continue to regard Western Europe as vital to their own security, and therefore keep their troops here. But is it reasonable to assume that the Americans will forever feel that their frontier is, in effect, on the Elbe, and that the threat to Western Europe is tantamount to a threat to themselves? Surely not. After all, it is not so long since they took that view of the threat to South Vietnam. But what happened to the South Vietnamese? Awareness of the necessary difference of interest between Europe and America was the principal inspiration of de Gaulle's insistence that France should not be part of the American defence system, but should be genuinely independent, while remaining a loyal ally of the Americans (as he demonstrated during the Cuban missiles crisis). History has already vindicated his stand.

He has other lessons for us, by the way. His revival of France's national spirit was achieved by a combination of qualities and policies, of which his genuinely national approach to defence is only one illustration. No less important was a radical reform of the constitution and an economic programme that rejected capitalist and socialist dogmatism in favour of eclectic common sense. Yet it would be hard to describe him as a "wet" politician.

British voters next Thursday should ask themselves which of the choices on offer comes nearest to the wise moderation and dynamic vision that enabled him to transform the fortunes of his country.

however... Henry Stanhope

Nothing to lose but their minds

What amazes me about *Mastermind*, whose annual denouement takes place this Sunday, is not so much the omniscience of he (or she) who wins it, but the temerity of the 7,999 who don't. In no other culture than our own might one find losers so foolhardy or so brave.

Now I speak as a secret quiz addict. *Brain of Britain*, *Ask Me Another*, *Top of the Form*, *Ask No Questions*, *University Challenge*, *Countdown*, *Family Quiz*, *A Question of Sport*—I've won them all in my time—just me, on my own, before the television.

There is no finer sport I would aver, than to sit, one's Sunday supper on a tray, bawling out the answers to Mr Magnusson, while rain lashes the heavily-curtained windows and branches creak and groan in the winter winds.

But I would no more swap my armchair for that one, facing 12 million viewers nationwide, than Mrs Cynthia Payne would become a minister in the United Reform Church or Mr Arthur Scargill stand for the chairmanship of Barnsley Young Conservatives. Not if the BBC filled my victor's Caithness vase with diamond encrusted cuff-links would I consent to expose my mental flank in public.

Yet, every year, some 8,000 aspirants try to do so. The only conclusion one can reach is that Britain is full of people who feel far more secure than is good for them.

I am mildly surprised, but no more, by the fact that there are those who know the chemical symbol for saltpetre, the capital of Papua New Guinea and the dates when Fred Perry won Wimbledon. I am astonished, however, by the alacrity with which so many are prepared to risk revealing to the rest of us that they don't.

It is daring enough for a postman, lorry driver or plumber's mate to do so, since none of these trades, skilled and worthy though they are, is generally thought very cerebral. But consider the courage required of the schoolteacher—who is effectively sitting a viva voce before his headmaster, the school governors and his class.

Just imagine what might happen if he forgets the date of Agincourt or the identity of the Princes in the Tower. And think of the classical scholar who is questioned on the Peloponnesian Wars—or the doctor who is asked the common name for hemiparesia. The farmhand who fails can hold his head high on his tractor just for trying—while the professor of English literature slinks home on the Underground in disgrace.

The other surprising thing about *Mastermind* is the gentle air of sportsmanship it breeds. He/she who wins sits there endeavouring like billyno to look snug, while the others all shake hands and smile the painful smiles of gallant losers.

Now if I had just been beaten on the number of passes by some coeve who had specialized in the history of open-cast mining on the Isle of Wight or the development of the woolen trade in Leighton Buzzard, I would probably be tempted to hit him.

Some of those who enter, though, deserve what's coming to them. Despite all the lessons of the last 15 years, they still submit to questioning on the political history of France since Louis XIV and the life and works of Shakespeare or, still worse, Agatha Christie. Any quizzerson worth his/her sodium chloride should know that it is better to swot up the life and works of, say, Chatterton, who died at the age of 18, than Wordsworth, who was 80 and that, when considering the Brontë sisters, it's a toss-up between Anne who died at 29 and wrote two novels and Emily who was 30 but managed only one. As for the musiciologists, who in his right mind would opt for the symphonies of Haydn, who polished off 104 of them, instead of Elgar who wrote two.

Historians should avoid the Hundred Years War like the plague and plump for the Seven Years War instead—though my personal preference would be for a history of the 98a trolley-bus route in north-west Derby 1940-43 or the fishing industry in Aberystwyth 1890-1900.

I hope that is of help. May the best quizzman (or woman) win...



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WHEN THE LAW FAILS

When hundreds of people who have a serious grievance are deprived by the law of an opportunity to have their case heard, the law is defective. If, at the same time, the chief beneficiary is a company which makes profits of millions of pounds, the impression is created that access to justice, and so justice itself, is denied to those who lack means.

This week's Appeal Court ruling that all 1,500 people seeking compensation for side-effects alleged to have been caused by the anti-arthritis drug, Opren, must contribute to the legal costs of the case in order to qualify for compensation is strictly just. It means that people who are not prepared to take a financial risk cannot benefit from the risk-taking of others. It thus discourages frivolous cases. It also establishes that legal aid cannot be used, even indirectly, to pay the costs of people who are not poor enough to qualify for it. It thus reserves public funds for the most needy.

Each of these principles is unimpeachable. Because of certain specific features of this case, however, the effect of the ruling is perverse. It transpires that — partly because of defects in the legal aid scheme, partly because of differences in the law on liability — people in Britain claiming compensation against the makers of Opren, Eli Lilly, are considerably worse off than Americans who made similar claims against the same company. All their cases have already been settled out of court.

Most of the claimants in Britain are pensioners on modest incomes. Some qualify for legal aid and some do not. The injustice in this case seems all the greater because those who do not qualify for legal aid are, by and large, people who saved for their retirement — a prudence which has turned into a penalty.

The second problem derives from the relatively small sums being claimed in compensation. If Eli Lilly chooses to fight the case all the way through the courts, not only will the costs be prohibitive, but much of any money awarded to those claimants who are legally aided will be clawed back by the Legal Aid Fund. Little or nothing would remain to compensate the other alleged victims unless, as the Appeal Court ruled, they had made their own contribution as the case went along.

On the other hand, if they make a contribution and lose, they would become personally liable for a share of the costs. Many of the 500 claimants not legally aided have now pulled out in response to the company's offer not to pursue a claim for costs against anyone who withdraws before June 8.

The claimants had hoped that by joining together in the Opren scheme and contesting a small number of legally aided cases, all members of the scheme would qualify for compensation. Group action is common in the United States. It has now been established that this sort of action, if it combines legally aided and privately funded claimants, is not permissible in English law.

English claimants are also in a weaker position than their American counterparts because of the law on liability. The US claimants had only to prove that the product caused damage — including liver and kidney failure. They did not have to prove negligence. In England, the advantage lies with the company; the bigger and more profitable the company, the greater the advantage.

Given the modesty of the claims, Eli Lilly — and the British Government's Committee on the Safety of Medicines and the Department of Health as co-defendants — might be expected to settle out of court. To save money by waiting until the number of claimants dwindles, as it may, to a mere handful looks like extreme cynicism on their part which ought to be made to rebound on them. If no compensation is forthcoming, the Government should consider very carefully all future applications by the company to market its products in Britain.

Whatever the defendants decide, there is a clear need for two changes in the legal system. The first requires the introduction of a scheme to handle group actions for damages. The Law Society, which is already discussing proposals for such a scheme, should be encouraged to speed up its work. The second is to alter the balance of the law to ensure that the individual is not at such a disadvantage when his interests conflict with those of a large corporation. British pensioners should not have to suffer injustices from which their American counterparts are protected by law.

MAINTAINING BAD RELATIONS

The Government's decision to close the Iranian consulate in Manchester, and expel five of its staff, if not the best solution to the present dispute between our two countries, is the second-best. What happens next is up to Tehran.

The five will include Mr Ahmed Ghassemi, the vice-consul who was due to appear in court next week, charged with shoplifting, assault and reckless driving. He will not now do so — which is why we think yesterday's announcement still fell short of the ideal. It would have been preferable to let Mr Ghassemi go to court — and then expel him, with his colleagues.

It is now clear that the violent arrest a week ago of Mr Edward Chaplin, Head of Chancery in the British Interests Section in Tehran, was a retaliatory gesture by Iran. Though released within 24 hours, Mr Chaplin has been subjected to veiled threats of further action — and would probably have suffered accordingly had Mr Ghassemi been brought before the bench.

The Foreign Office has emphatically denied that any backstairs deal has been done with the Tehran government. One must hope that this is so, since any attempt to treat with such a country would lead only to exploitation of one's weakness. A principle is involved, which however hard it seems, should have been adhered to. Presumably this would have led to revenge against Mr Chaplin — and in a country where the quality of mercy is much strained. In such circumstances, one must have some sympathy with those in Whitehall who bear the responsibility for his safety. What happens next

is very much in the hands of the Tehran government. There is no British equivalent to their consulate in Manchester. So a precise "tit-for-tat" response is hardly possible. The hope must be that they resist the temptation to move against British diplomats in Tehran, and that the Foreign Office has made clear to them that Britain would be prepared to take tougher action still if this seemed necessary.

Iran "can live" without its consulate in Manchester. Its usual Iran-based staff of four (plus 16 locally employed ancillaries) sounds excessive and one wonders what its real purpose was. But the government in Tehran is irrational, unprofessional and ruthless. It follows that its response is unpredictable and could be disproportionate to its loss.

The world has somehow to live with Iran, however hard this may sometimes be. It is strategically placed. It can hardly be ignored or wished away. Ayatollah Khomeini is very old and perhaps ill. When he dies, there will be a power struggle in Iran, and a struggle for influence over Iran. Britain will want at least to keep in touch with those developments. Diplomatic relations are more easily broken than restored, and it would be inconvenient if change came to pass when Britain was unrepresented in Tehran.

There is, however, a price to pay for good relations. If Iran is unwilling to pay its share, this country should make clear that it will not bankrupt its self-respect for the sake of remaining on good terms. Britain owes the present Iranian regime nothing, and should treat it accordingly.

HERR KOHL PLAYS THE ZERO

Chancellor Kohl is not a leader known either for his political adroitness or for his public relations skill. Yet the decision announced belatedly by the West German coalition government and presented to the Bundestag yesterday as Bonn's response to the Soviet proposal for a "zero-zero" option in Europe showed a little of both qualities.

The West German government had tied itself in knots over the Soviet initiative. Its problem was not just that West Germans have, or used to have, a healthy disrespect for Soviet initiatives — however seductive — born of their experience in living next door to East Germany. Nor did it stem from the unpopularity of the initial Nato decision to deploy new medium-range American missiles in West Germany: Chancellor Kohl fought the last election but one on that very issue, and won.

Rather, the Bonn government's dilemma reflected the difficulties facing an administration which brings together the cold war suspicions of Chancellor Kohl's Christian Democrats and the more generous interpretation of Soviet intentions favoured by their Free Democrat partners. The foreign minister, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, is both a Free Democrat and a respected member of the Kohl Cabinet with many years' experience of foreign affairs, only complicates matters.

The Soviet proposal found these incipient cracks in the coalition, and the local elections nearly three weeks ago — when the zero option became an issue — only widened them, leading to heavy Christian Democrat losses. Voters who did not desert the CDU because of what they saw as Chancellor Kohl's obduracy in the face of a constructive Soviet proposal are thought to have deserted because of his apparent indecision.

None the less, the government's response, when it came, had several points to recommend it. It was announced on the date scheduled; it was clear, and it reunited the government coalition. But — and it is a big "but" — West Germany has now accepted the principle of a zero-zero option for medium and

short-range nuclear missiles in Europe, even though it insists that the details and timing can only be established by negotiation.

In essence, the West German formula echoes almost exactly Mrs Thatcher's turnaround on the zero option at the beginning of the British election campaign: and it is just as unwelcome. On the matter of principle — whether the zero option will jeopardize the defence of the Western alliance — Chancellor Kohl has bowed to his opponents in the coalition. Moscow will now be able to boast that the West Europeans have seen the error of their nuclear ways and accepted that a nuclear-free Europe is, ultimately, desirable.

Chancellor Kohl's compromise, however, has a catch. It stipulates that any agreement on nuclear missiles in Europe must exclude the 72 Pershing 1A missile-launchers which are stationed in West Germany under American control. These are obsolete and their use is limited, but their very presence is likely to displease the Russians who believe that they could be modified in future. There is also the emotive aspect: the intense Soviet propaganda campaign against cruise and Pershing five years ago focused specifically on the Pershing 2, which the Russians regard as a first-strike weapon. However obsolete the Pershing 1A, it will be forever associated in Soviet minds with the Pershing 2.

Herr Kohl insisted yesterday that unconditional acceptance of the Soviet proposal was out of the question for his government, given Soviet superiority in short-range nuclear weapons and tanks. This makes it premature to assume that the superpowers are now on course to eliminate medium-range and then shorter-range nuclear missiles from Europe. Chancellor Kohl's change of heart on the principle allows the United States to probe more deeply into what the Soviet leadership really means with its "zero-zero option" without opposition from its Nato allies in Europe. If that probing is done as thoroughly as it must be, the Pershing 1A may well be the least of the problems.

War of words over jobless totals

From Councillor Ted Dutton
Sir, There's little doubt that creating a pool of three to four million unemployed, imposing restrictions on union power which are not applied to businesses, removing planning and safety controls, and giving carte blanche to foreign companies to privatise around British industry makes life simpler and easier for signatories of Sir Ronald Halstead's letter (June 2). Whether in the long run this is good for Britain remains to be seen.

As a local councillor — even in one of London's leafy suburbs rather than a deprived inner-city area — I am daily made aware of the impact of Tory policies on the lives of people who do not belong to the select band of the "great and the good".

To quote a few statistics: the UK has the highest unemployment rate of seven major industrial countries, twice as many people (4.4 million) on supplementary benefit as in 1979, 36,000 fewer teachers than in 1979, 724,000 on hospital waiting lists, 25,000 nurses leaving the NHS every year, 105,000 homeless families — double the 1979 figure. Housing spending has been cut by 30 per cent. And manufacturing industry is still below the output figure of 1979.

How these eminent businessmen can read into the Alliance manifesto, which is designed to encourage partnership in industry and profit-sharing, rather than the traditional management/union dog fight over profits, a "return to an industrial relations battlefield" I cannot imagine.

I agree that voters should read manifestos carefully. With the Tories' "economy with the truth" in mind they should also compare the grandiose claims of Mrs Thatcher and her big business allies with their own real world experience on the receiving — or non-receiving — end of Tory policies.

Yours faithfully,
TED DUTTON,
42 Montagu Gardens,
Wallingford, Surrey,
June 2.

From Mr David R. Allen and others

Sir, The letter from the chairman of some of the country's largest manufacturing companies shows why a Conservative victory, and the continuance of sound economic policies, is important to them. It is even more important to people like us — who run small and medium-sized companies.

"Running a business is never a picnic, but over the last eight years we have felt that we have been working with a Government which understands how the economy actually works."

We are not attracted to the backward-looking and doctrinaire ideas of the Labour Party, nor to the muddled thinking of the Liberals and the SDP. We are dismayed to see that there are still people around who think that politicians and Civil Servants know better than we do about how to run our businesses.

We remember the bad experience of the National Enterprise Board, the nonsense of the Nat-

ional Plan, the failure of incomes policies and the result of giving undue power to union leaders. We are surprised that anyone would think it sensible to try these failed recipes again.

We would much rather stick with the policies which have reversed our national decline and given all of us, and our companies, the opportunity to get on with our jobs and contribute to the economic and social well-being of the country.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID R. ALLEN
(DHL International (UK) Ltd),
M. C. BARNETT
(Rush Computer Systems Ltd),
M. H. BRENT
(Trimble Ltd),
MICHAEL CAMPBELL
(Ellis Campbell Group),
K. C. GUNBIE
(Keeper Holdings plc),
W. A. HAMMETTON
(P. V. Products Ltd),
EDWARD B. LACOSTE
(Overnight Bag Ltd),
B. E. MASSEY
(Coblenz Ltd),
PATRICK L. POOL
(James Pool and Sons Ltd),
B. PRICE
(Dolphin Head Ltd),
D. REAY
(CGP (Europe) Ltd),
A. E. WHITE
(Biswater Ltd),
DHL International (UK) Ltd,
Orbital Park,
178/188 Great South West Road,
Hounslow, Middlesex,
June 3.

From the General Secretary of the Fabian Society

Sir, Lord Young has again trotted out the claim that applying sanctions to South Africa will cost 120,000 British jobs. The background notes issued by Conservative Central Office to back this figure refer to evidence given by Sir Geoffrey Howe in December, 1985, to a Commons select committee — hardly an impartial source. It was contradicted by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in June, 1986, who said that "estimates of the number of jobs involved in trade with South Africa are not available" (written answers, June 23, 1986).

The only rigorous calculation of the employment effects of comprehensive sanctions against South Africa has been carried out by the Fabian Society using the Cambridge economic model. The results, published last July, showed that the job loss would peak at 4,500 after four years.

I do hope that the other figures quoted by Lord Young for the employment effects of Labour's policies have a firmer basis in fact.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WILLMAN,
General Secretary,
Fabian Society,
11 Dartmouth Street, SW1,
June 2.

From Mr C. Hemmings

Sir, Now let us see a letter from the chairman of all the companies that this Government has driven to the wall. Whom do they think the electorate should choose?

Yours faithfully,
C. HEMMINGS,
Foggoe Cottage,
Low Wray,
Airedale, Cumbria,
June 2.

Care of the NHS

From Mr Eric Moonman
Sir, The National Health Service may have flaws but it is not in ruins. The reputation of this lie seems to be the main thrust of Labour policy on health care.

The consequence of this exaggeration is that it effectively diverts the public's attention, in this election, away from those issues of health care and finance which health authorities and management have been grappling with these past 10 years.

The issues which have not surfaced in debate are the need to re-examine the whole funding system, known as RAWP (Resource Allocation Working Party), the consequences of moving services from the hospital to the community and the urgency of establishing the full national cost of the diagnosis and treatment of Aids and the implications of this for other services.

The sad feature of current

campaigning is that the NHS has become a target in a crude and destructive election game in a way I have not encountered in more than 30 years of public life in local government, Parliament and as a chairman of a local health authority (Islington).

But on June 12 my health authority, like all others, will still have to run an effective health service, to motivate staff after all the charges and abuse have been levelled and the political circus is over.

I am confident that the tremendous professionalism and devotion of hospital staffs, at every level, will continue as before, though I cannot pretend that there will be no resentment at the waste of the opportunity this election offered for an informed debate on the issues which are their main concern.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC MOONMAN,
1 Beacon Hill, N7,
June 2.

Giant tortoises

From Dr D. R. Stoddart
Sir, Your report (May 25), "Tortoise species are fast vanishing", gives a quite misleading impression of the status of the Aldabra giant tortoise, *Geochelone gigantea*, in the Seychelles.

Between 1978 and 1982 the Seychelles Islands Foundation introduced 226 individually tagged tortoises from Aldabra to the island of Curieuse in the granitic Seychelles, thus re-establishing a population on an island where they had long been extinct. These tortoises have been censused and

weighed every six months since the project began.

We are aware that the security of tortoises on Curieuse is less than satisfactory and the foundation has been discussing ways in which the situation may be improved. The 144 adult tortoises found by Dr Samour in 1986 are from this single recently established population on Curieuse.

On Aldabra atoll, where the foundation maintains a research station and conservation staff, the last full census put the giant tortoise population at over 150,000 individuals (95 per cent confidence limits, 134,000-167,000). While numbers undoubtedly fluctuate over the years, it is not the case that "tortoise are fast vanishing" in Seychelles.

Finally, the problem on Curieuse is not to do with lack of breeding success, as your report suggests, but with poaching, a problem which the foundation, in collaboration with the Seychelles Government, hopes to be able to overcome.

Yours sincerely,
D. R. STODDART, Trustee,
Seychelles Islands Foundation,
c/o The Royal Society,
6 Carlton House Terrace, SW1,
May 29.

Steering away from Gulf war

From Sir John Graham
Sir, The war between Iraq and Iran has lasted nearly seven years and caused untold suffering. The only straw of comfort hitherto has been that it has not involved others in the fighting, whether neighbours or more distant interested parties.

Now we face calls for the active participation of US and possibly other warships and aircraft in the name of freedom of navigation. I should like to offer some comments.

First, the attack on the USS Stark was carried out by an Iraqi aircraft, both aircraft and missile having been supplied by France. Yet one could be forgiven for concluding from subsequent American statements that Iran was to blame.

Secondly, while each combatant has a clear interest in closing the ports available to its adversary, neither has an interest in closing the Gulf to all shipping. Iran depends on the sea lanes for the export of oil on which its war effort and economy generally depend, there being no suitable port with adequate internal communications outside the Straits of Hormuz.

It was for that reason, no doubt, that Iraq started the war at sea some years ago — and there were few calls then for the escorting of shipping bound for Iranian ports. And for Iraq, whose oil now has other outlets, the Arab ports of the Gulf offer the most convenient point of entry for arms supplies.

Thirdly, what protection can warships and aircraft provide against infra-red or radar-guided missiles? I am not technically qualified to answer, but the experience of the Falklands war suggests that at best a warship can only act as a decoy, in the hope that its own close-in armament will be able to destroy the incoming missile in the last few seconds of its flight — and at worst its chaff defences may actually divert the missile on to the merchant ship it is trying to protect (cf. the Atlantic Conveyor).

And while air cover might no doubt prevent an attacking aircraft from approaching close enough to launch a missile, it would be ineffective against surface-launched missiles of the kind it is said Iran now possesses. We are left then with deterrence, through the threat of retaliation.

Secretarial skills

From Miss Jenny Ordish
Sir, According to your report yesterday (June 1) on the survey by the Industrial Society, Mr June Tatum cites opening the mail as one of the degrading jobs given to secretaries.

As an (educated) secretary myself I have actually asked to be allowed to open the mail. Far from being degrading, this task gives me a considerable advantage. I know at once exactly what has been received by whom in the office. Hence, if I want to, I can ask the right questions to find out what is going on.

The same applies to answering the telephone. You don't listen to the calls, of course, but you do at least know who has called whom.

Similarly, the trying and tedious task of minute-taking allows the secretary to attend meetings that no other lowly office minion would attend.

These procedures give one tremendous (invisible) clout. You need to be toady to be a good secretary.

Yours faithfully,
JENNY ORDISH,
Basement Flat,
17 Empress Place, SW6,
June 2.

V & A appointment

From the Rector and Vice-Provost of the Royal College of Art
Sir, Once again (Diary, May 25) you have included me in the list of candidates as director of the Victoria and Albert Museum. I hope you will allow me the opportunity of stating publicly that I have not applied for the post and in the unimaginable circumstances of being offered it I would not accept it, for I am contracted to the Royal College of Art where I am very happy and there is much to do.

Yours faithfully,
JOCELYN STEVENS,
Rector and Vice-Provost,
Royal College of Art,
Kensington Gore, SW7,
May 28.

All buttoned up

From the Reverend John Brazy
Sir, I am appalled by the letter of Miss Audrey Bayley (May 26) in praise of the buttoned gaiter, whether episcopal or feminine. They looked ridiculous enough on bishops, and on women antique. If she had knelt as often as I did in childhood buttoning up my grandmother's boots or gaiters, giving the book that particular twist which only an expert can give, she would refrain from consigning the young to such servitude.

The day I was released from the buttonhook was an emancipation. Miss Bayley should read Anthony Trollope's essay on "Bishops old and new; why have they abandoned the wearing of 'the wig' and she will find herself in good company. But, if we are to have women bishops... I

Yours faithfully,
J. BRAZY,
66 Montague Road, Cambridge,
May 26.

against military targets in the territory of the attacker. From that full involvement in the war is but a step.

In the short term, the safest and most effective form of defence for ships in the Gulf would seem to be a combination of airborne early warning, with the warning transmitted direct to all ships in the area, and the equipment of threatened merchant ships with some form of defence such as chaff dispensers.

And, further, the time has surely now come for the major powers, together with the suppliers of arms and the purchasers of oil, to make a concerted and even-handed effort to bring the conflict to an end. Reported moves in the UN Security Council (June 3) are to be welcomed.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GRAHAM,
8 St Maur Road, SW6,
June 3.

ON THIS DAY

JUNE 5 1916

The Battle of Jutland was fought on May 31 and June 1 in the North Sea about 75 miles from the Danish coast, between the British Fleet under Admiral Jellicoe and that of Germany under Admiral Scheer. Although the action was indecisive, it effectively rendered the German Fleet impotent, for thereafter it never left its base at Heligoland. British fatal casualties numbered 6,897 and German 2,551.

[BATTLE OF JUTLAND]

MEN OF THE WARRIOR

(From Our Special Correspondent,
Edinburgh, Sunday.)

Through the railway station at a late hour last night there passed a long train filled with cheering bluejackets. From the window of one carriage waved a Naval Ensign, the battle flag of the British Fleet. So far as I could see in the dim light, the flag was torn and stained. It was hung out between two windows, and its folds were gripped by seamen, who raised a shout of "Are we downhearted?" as the train steamed by. The defiant roll of "No" rang through the station, and the many people assembled on the platforms added their answer to that of the cheering sailors. "Who are you?" some one called out to the sailors. "British survivors," came the reply. Then the train pulled up, and one could see the letters "H.M.S. Warrior" on the caps worn by the men in the carriages.

The sailors during the few minutes which followed were quite ready to talk of the stirring scenes in which they had played so gallant a part, and I heard, in the forebode and foreboding of the sea, something of the individual stories of the greatest naval battle in history. Talk with the men who had the flag was impossible, for they were beyond the platform, but the men of the Warrior stated that the survivors were from many of the ships which were in action and from practically all of our sunken vessels. "Our ensign was shot through twice," stated the seaman; "I expect the catfish have it now." The sailors would not bear the word "reverse" in talking over the incidents of the action. "We had the Germans running before us to the finish," they said. "We have lost seven, but the Germans lost more than we did. The Tiger sank six destroyers. We are talking about what we saw. The Warrior herself sank two light cruisers and a destroyer. At 6 o'clock firing was at 5,000 yards range, and every shot went home."

The Warrior, I gathered, went into action about 5.30 on Wednesday afternoon. At this time the enemy, who was superior in vessels and gunfire, was beginning to cripple the ships arrayed against him. Concentrated fire had been adopted, and all the might of the German Fleet was directed in turn on the Queen Mary, the Indefatigable, the Invincible, and the Defence. Salvo after salvo from the great guns rained death and destruction on the ships which were trying to hold the enemy until the time when the Grand Fleet could come.

With an appalling roar the Queen Mary blew up. A shell or fire had reached the magazine, and suddenly the battle cruiser went down to her blue-water grave. The officers and men, or as many as had survived the gunfire and the explosion, sank with their ship. Four midshipmen alone among the officers were picked up from the sea, and the losses among the crew were proportionately heavy.

The Indefatigable, too, blew up and came to her end with the same dread suddenness. In such a battle as this there was no quarter. Guns were fought until destruction came to them. Ships went down with flags flying proudly. It is asserted that before Admiral Jellicoe brought his fleet into action Admiral Beatty's squadron had accounted for an enemy battle cruiser and other ships, so that the losses were not all on one side in the unequal fight...

THE ARTS

Frozen fraud

My atlas insists that the Philippines are an archipelago in the western Pacific, their spiritual home, however, is surely Latin America. And none but a Marquez or a Roa Bastos could have invented fictional characters to compare with Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos.

The Search for the Marcos Millions (BBC2) was an exhaustively researched update on the continuing saga of the dictator's stashed loot: its

TELEVISION

grubby origins, its exit routes from the Philippines, its present location in frozen Swiss bank accounts.

Now living in exile in Hawaii, the sometime first couple are understandably peeved at their situation. "This is worse than death," wailed Imelda as she tucked into a donated dinner. It must be doubly galling for them to have to keep denying ownership of the staggering fortune that they spent 20 years sifting away against a rainy millennium.

Ferdinand, being a lawyer, took the line that all evidence was merely presumptive — including his own signature on compromising documents. Somebody had obviously been taking their names in vain. He could not imagine who might have been the person who tried to withdraw \$213 million in cash from the Credit Suisse when the balloon went up.

In their prime, the Marcos circle formed a living textbook on crony capitalism, and the corruption of their regime was widely reported. This documentary's greatest achievement was to detail the gross, shameless vulgarity of it all.

By their home videos shall ye know them. Here we saw the Conjugal Dictators crowning to each other like a brace of Nancy Reagan's George Hamilton, on the occasion of Imelda's birthday, staging "We can't give you anything but love", and the Marcos children, Imee and Bong Bong, joyfully howling "We are the world" — the American anthem of famine relief — while the Filipinos they had impoverished picked over rubbish dumps in order to stay alive.

This contrast, while obscene, was strangely unmovable. One was left with the idea that the salient aspect of Filipino life under the Marcoses was a pervasive sense of unreality.

Martin Cropper

Sculptured revival

John Russell Taylor finds pleasures, not always predictable, at this year's Royal Academy Summer Exhibition

This year there are few surprises, or even shocks, in the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition, which opens to the public tomorrow and runs until August 23. But then, after 219 years, one would hardly expect any different.

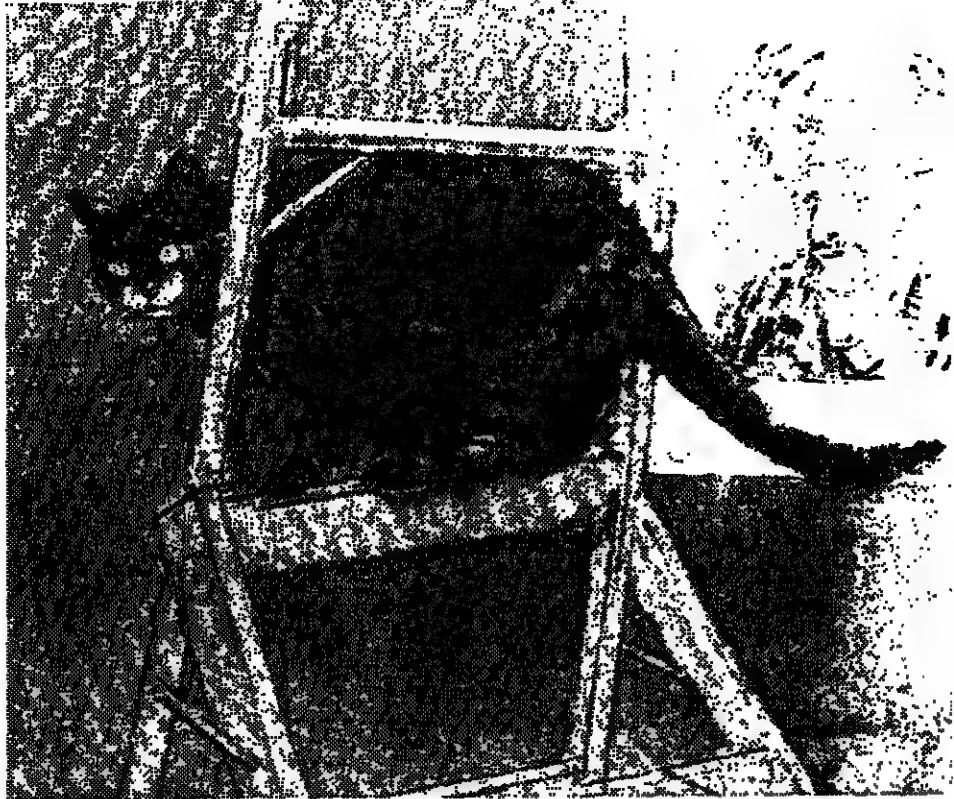
There are shifts of direction and emphasis, of course, but it is more a matter of fine tuning than anything else: nice to see this or that artist back (there are some, like Will Roberts, that one seems to see only at Academy summer shows), a pity that there is no Bawden or Middleditch this year, and so on. There are expected pleasures in instantly recognizable styles: the usual splendid landscapes by Robert Buhler and the PRA, Roger de Grey, further episodes in the continuing saga of Anthony Green's mental autobiography (slightly odd goings-on in definitely odd shapes, one keeps trying to get the dramatic personae straight), Bratby Venice scenes, Bellamy's personal mythologizing, Allan Jones's saucy scenes in vibrant airbrush colours, Bernard Myers's luminous flower-pieces.

Some well-known contributors are same-as-before, better-than-before. Frederick Cumming, always a pleasure to encounter, surpasses himself this year with *The Wall*, a breathtaking symphony of greens and blues, with little, bold touches of red on the house one can just glimpse over the top of the wall itself. Ruskin Spear comes off particularly well, with a characteristic variety of subjects, from the studio scene of *Finding Out About Art*, which

Like Harold Pinter's *A Kind of Alaska*, this multi-media piece by Pete Brooks and Jeremy Peyton-Jones is a theatrical spin-off from Oliver Sacks's classic *Awakenings*, a study of *encephalitis lethargica*.

Unlike Pinter, it makes no acknowledgment to Sacks's book, and — since its first performance in Glasgow last month — the name of his hospital and his patient have been replaced with fictional substitutions.

Whatever the partners'



Eduardo Paozzoli in the sculptural forefront with his striking bronze *Self Portrait and Strange Machine*, and Ruskin Spear, who shows particularly well in characteristic variety, featuring a painting in *Car, Ladder and Reproduction*

won the Blackstone Award, to the domestic snapshot of *Cal, Ladder and Reproduction* — the reproduction being of a Van Gogh self-portrait. This is by no means the only painting featured in another painting. Tom Phillips's portrait of Michael Kustow, for instance, has in the background the same Titian, of the flaying of Marsyas, which appears in his Iris Murdoch portrait now in the National Portrait Gallery. (What, one wonders, can be its iconographic relevance to either or both sitters?)

Among the artists not too familiar in this context, it is good to see a large drawing of a head by John Davies and a very fine Greek landscape by John Craxton, who emerges so wonderfully well from the *Paradise Lost* show at the Barbican that his current work must also be due for a closer, more appreciative look.

David Hockney this year shows two of his new Xerox prints, both lively, both done for mass circulation newspaper/magazines, to the enjoyable deflation of commercially inspired "fine art" pretensions: indeed, the catalogue tells us that *A Bounce for Bradford*, produced for the *Bradford Telegraph and Argus*, exists in an edition of 110,000, and for anyone longing to own a Hockney original is available from the RA shop at 18p.

In two areas there seems to be a marked increase in liveliness, and perhaps proficiency, among the drawings, and in the sculpture. Admittedly, the rooms devoted to drawings and watercolours often come up with some of the strongest work in the show, but this year, possibly encouraged by all the attention presently

being paid to the young Glasgow figurative painters and their kin, all of whose work is heavy on expressive draughtsmanship, there seem to be more than usual of those powerful works which use the limitations of stark monochrome as a way of concentrating vision.

David Gledhill, for instance, manages to imbue some *Apples* on a stool-top with an almost apocalyptic intensity, and Madeleine Strubel, under the innocuous title of *The Sleeping Beauty*, comes up with an astonishing image of an animal skull held tight in bondage. She is not the only one to have been inspired by animal anatomy: there are also two of those large drawings by Bryan Kneale of animal skeletons which were such a feature of his one-man show at the Royal College earlier in the year.

At the point, Mr Peyton-Jones supports her with merciless unison, ostinatos which conning unabated as the rest of the company engage in the speculative activities of poor Helen's inner landscape.

They also sing a Rilke poem in German, as it has struck somebody that her case has echoes of the Euripidean legend. If you will pardon an old-fashioned term, the whole show is a prize bit of Rilking.

Irving Wardle

Naive vigour

MUSIC THEATRE

Endymion/Whitfield Donmar Warehouse

The immensely enjoyable, strange and touching Endymion production of Birtwistle's *Down by the Greenwood Side*, seen at Bath three years ago, has now sprouted wings to make a full evening's entertainment. Before it, Monteverdi's *Il combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda* provides an earlier, rather more elevated vision of knightly combat in terms of intimate music-drama. And afterwards there is a new work by Michael Nyman, who in his pre-composing days wrote the libretto for Birtwistle's mingling of ballad and mummer's play.

The staging of this last retains all its exuberant naivety, boasting a strong cast of actors: John Rath is the honest, custodial Father Christmas, David Acton the school cricket hero as St George, Peter Geeves a gruesome boot-boy as Bold Slasher and David Meyer a crazed, glinting-eyed magician as Dr Blood and Jack Finney. The ballad is gleefully keened by Sarah Leonard, and a thumping instrumental performance is

conducted by John Whitfield. He also conducts the other two works, of which the Monteverdi is beautifully realized for the stage by Jonathan Howell. By removing all three singers to the gallery, he clears the acting area for the engagement of Tancredi and Clorinda to be presented in mime, by Carolyn Backhouse and himself. This slightly spoils those moments where narration is interwoven with dialogue, but in fact there is very little of the latter: most of the story is related (here finely and eloquently by Hugh Hetherington), and the accompanying ballet brings out the erotic charge of single combat, something of which Monteverdi was clearly aware.

David Blight's costumes for the warriors are nicely fanciful and suggestive of the cavalier, while his gold masks for the raised singers hint at a more modern perspective. Mr Rath strongly and Marie Angel with an oblique voluptuousness sing the dialogue.

Miss Angel, Mr Heighington and Miss Leonard all recapture, together with Adrian Beaumont, in the Nyman piece, *Il combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda*, a misadventure and spate of splicing of a boring essay on the measurement of physique to a string of unfunny jokes about two rival tenors: I suppose Pavarotti and Domingo were intended.

Paul Griffiths

CONCERT

Philharmonia/Salonon Festival Hall

A Stravinsky evening which should have fizzed and then erupted never really came alive. Esa-Pekka Salonon — neat, dapper and with a conducting style to match — does not yet seem to put fire in his players' bellies or strike terror in their hearts. Orchestras can respond to either approach, though young men are usually wise to opt for the former.

That Salonon has an effortless technical grasp was manifest from the way he steered the Philharmonia through the metrical hoops of *The Rite of Spring*. Yet "effortless" is not the adjective that describes great performances of this work. One missed any feeling of huge primordial forces gathering, and where the music slowed the tension with-

ered — to the crucial detriment of the drama.

But at least *The Rite* did have some heady excitement, mostly inspired by the bass drum. Salonon's ultra-mellow account of the *Symphonies of Wind Instruments* tended to smooth away all vigour, and the carefully-blended textures did not really compensate.

Ida Haendel sounded underpowered in the Violin Concerto's chugging *moto perpetuo* passage-work, though she lured the "Arias" with some typically ardent mances.

The biggest disappointment, however, was Salonon's handling of the "poker" ballet, *Jeu de cartes*. Again, the notes were placed neatly enough, but where was the wit, or the excitement of the big deal?

Richard Morrison

Carol Churchill's comedy *Scrivens Money* is to transfer to Wyndham's Theatre for a limited run from July 1 after three successful months at the Royal Court. The play is scheduled to go to New York in the autumn.

THEATRE

The Sleep Riverside

motive for covering their tracks, it has yielded a repellent example of artistic freeloading. For Sacks (and even Pinter) it is the plight of the patients that counts. From *The Sleep*, all you get is a self-admiring desire to process the

material into an experimental art-object.

"We can only speculate on what's going on in the patient's head," declares her doctor, thus authorizing 90 minutes of free speculation. If anyone has been asleep for 40 years, no doubt the same memories would keep coming around.

So Helen (Sarah-Jane Morris) keeps on telling us where she lives, and how happy she is about her engagement. For those who may have missed

Visions of power and pain

OPERA

Jakob Lenz Almeida

Thanks in no small part to the breadth of its policy the Almeida Festival has quickly turned itself into one of the most important forums for contemporary music in the world. This year it has two broad, though typically non-rigorous themes, Vienna and music drama. But the opening gambit is three performances of Wolfgang Rihm's one-act opera *Jakob Lenz*, given in an imaginative production, whose stage machinery is curiously reminiscent of a baroque opera, by the festival's director, Pierre Audi.

It has taken the opera eight years to reach this country, which is something approaching a disgrace, for, although it lasts little more than an hour and the cast and instrumental ensemble are both small, it is a dense and immensely powerful work. Rihm, taking his libretto from Georg Büchner's narrative *Lenz*, gives us a painful insight into the mind of the deranged poet who idealized Goethe and his lover, Friederike Brion, to the point of self-destruction.

Carmen Coliseum

Unveiled last autumn, this is the production which dumps *Carmen* in a used car lot. Of all ENO's radical visions of the last few years, it is the one which has the least to offer.

A less auspicious place for a young singer to try out her first *Carmen* is difficult to imagine, and one's heart goes out to Jean Rigby, who has raised the level in so many productions from the pit under the direction of Peter Robinson sounded sluggish.

production, she has everything a *Carmen* could want.

For her special gift of inner intensity, though, this production has no use. What it demands is a *Carmen* who can be brash and obvious, nothing but a cheap slut, and the concept not surprisingly seems alien to her.

The other new member of the cast was Angela Feecey, a sturdy and rather unromantic Micaëla. Too much of the singing in the supporting roles was frankly poor and support from the pit under the direction of Peter Robinson sounded sluggish.

Richard Fairman

MARILYN HORNE RECITAL FRIDAY 5 JUNE CANCELLATION

The Management regrets that Marilyn Horne is unwell and has been compelled to cancel her recital tonight.

Ticket holders will receive full refunds by sending tickets plus use and full name and address to: Marilyn Horne Recital, Royal Opera House, PO Box 6, London WC2E 7JA or in person to: The Box Office, 49 Floral Street, London WC2. Open 11am - 8pm Mon to Sat.



In the mountains of the mind: Richard Jackson's fine performance as Lenz

The musical means through which he achieves this are eclectic yet utterly self-assured. The expressionistic score, which is played superbly by Music Projects/London under Richard Bernas, underlines every subtle twist of the mind while

vividly reinforcing the action, real or, as often, imagined. We are not far from the world of Berg's operas, nor indeed from the stream of consciousness which is Schoenberg's *Erwartung*.

And, as Hilary Finch pointed out in her preview in the *Times* Information Service on Wednesday, Lenz's character can be related closely to that of Wozzeck, a man equally trapped by a hopeless obsession. Richard Jackson gives a stupendous performance, charged with nervous energy yet sympathetic, and in vocal terms remarkably flexible.

There is one staggering moment near the end when, in his utter confusion and loneliness, convinced that Friederike is dead, Lenz plants kisses firmly upon the lips of the pastor Oberlin, who has befriended him. This is no deliberate shock; rather it distils in the one gesture his sheer desperation.

Oberlin, portrayed sensitively by Nicholas Isherwood, is a gentle and generous character until that point. Afterwards he submits to less sympathetic, more confused reactions as the incredulous Kaufmann (Ian Caley, projecting with immense force) has done all along. Neither can help the poor man for whom the dividing line between nightmare and reality has disappeared, for whom those voices in the air are real.

Stephen Pettitt

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BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE. PREMIERES FROM 15 AUGUST. Very exciting in performance. It all looks absolutely ravishing. Highly enjoyable. 5 TIMES. A beautiful new production... genuinely magical. G. S. TOWSE.

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BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE. NOW PLAYING. FINAL PERFS 17/18 JULY. Jeremy Irons. Richard is one of the finest in recent years. 5 television.

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BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE. NOW PLAYING. CONTINUING IN REP UNTIL 1 OCT. If you see nothing else this year, please see your own self. Michael Bogdanov's sparkling production... it brings the play right up to date. Daily Light.

An absorbing sense of excitement and vitality. This is a revival to draw the young. Guardian.



Royal Shakespeare Company

THE PIT

THE STORM

BY ALEXANDER OSTROVSKY. FROM 8 JULY. Ostrovsky is recognised as one of the most influential Russian dramatists of the 19th century. THE STORM is undoubtedly Ostrovsky's masterpiece and his story of the tragic teenage girl, who rebels against her oppressive marriage, has become a classic.

FLIGHT

BY DAVID LAM. FROM 23 JULY. David Lam's new play tells of the attitudes of three generations of a Jewish family to reconcile their political and religious beliefs.

Five performances... Joe Melia, Geraldine Fitzgerald, Max Oates and Gillian Barge stand out in a strong cast. 5 TIMES.

THE ART OF SUCCESS

BY NICK DEAR. FROM 15 AUGUST. No one has influenced our vision of 18th Century London more than the artist William Hogarth. Nick Dear's new comedy specialises on the artist as he tries to reconcile his appetite for sex and money with the demands of his conscience.

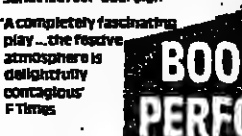
Venerably well-performed, especially by Michael Kitchen (Hogarth), Penny Downie and Billy Lacey (Lester).

This play contains scenes which some people may find offensive.

WORLDS APART

BY JOSE TRIANA. NOW PLAYING. FINAL PERFS 17/18 JULY. A dazzling performance from Janet McTeer. Guardian.

A completely fascinating play... the focus atmosphere is deliciously conspiratorial. 5 TIMES.



Royal Shakespeare Company

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The Mermaid has been magicked into a brilliant and sympathetic space for the RSC City Limbs.

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BY HORACE MCCOY. ADAPTED BY RAY HESMAN. PREMIERES FROM 9 JULY. The times world of the great American dream, re-enacted on the floor of a Marchion Dance Contest in 1930's downtown Los Angeles. Each dancer couple dreams of winning, but what happens when the dreams fade away?

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FRIDAY PAGE

No job for the girls?

At 17, WPC Jan Rodgers was interviewing victims of rape; at 27 she was the bait for a rapist. Those 10 years, she told Sally Brompton, have taught her "everything" — including the fact that many policemen consider her a liability

Jan Rodgers was raring to get back on the streets where she belonged. The past two days as a media personality had worn her down. "Imagine sitting in this office all day — it would give you brain damage." She was considerably happier trudging the council estates and litter-strewn pavements of her north London patch where mothers drag their children away at the sight of a policeman — or woman.

Rodgers is the 27-year-old policewoman who acted as a decoy during the arrest of Shaun Francis, a teenager believed to be the youngest mass rapist in Britain. This week he was convicted and given 13 years' youth custody. WPC Rodgers allowed herself to be attacked from behind in a dark side street; her injuries were severe enough for her to take two weeks' sick leave. She admits that she was terrified when Francis, one of several suspects, grabbed hold of her. Until then she had been fairly casual about the whole thing. "We'd been working on it for five weeks and I was beginning to feel a bit lethargic." Despite laying herself open to attack, she shared the belief of many women that "it won't happen to me." After the arrest, and despite her injuries, she insisted on giving evidence to the sergeant herself. "There's no stopping me once I've made my mind up. One of the lads said he's never seen me so shook up. My voice was shaking, although I didn't realize it."

She interviewed her first rape victim when she was 17, after seven weeks with the force. "You don't do the police course on it until you've done two years in the job, which is a joke. Like most things in this job, you learn by getting out there and doing it. If you make mistakes, you never forget you made those mistakes." She has worked on about a dozen rape cases since then. "You never get used to it because it's different for every woman. It is harrowing and you do feel sorry for them, but at the same time you've got to be firm and keep them talking because while they're flowing they remember and as long as they remember you can convict someone." One rape victim in her thirties, from whom she was taking a statement, asked her age. Rodgers was 18 at the time. "I asked her if she'd like me to get someone older. She just said 'It's all right, kid, you'll learn by what I'm going to tell you'."

She believes that "most blokes have got the potential to be a rapist because they've got a different attitude to sex than women have. I just reckon that some blokes are animals in their attitude towards women. Take Francis — he had a nice home, a nice family, he was articulate, he left school with qualifications — his mother couldn't believe that he was a rapist."

She is a chirpy, gutsy blonde who says what she thinks and believes in

the traditional police values of getting in there and doing the job. Brought up on a council estate in Liverpool, the eldest of six children, her early relationship with the police was "the same as everyone else's. If you saw a cop you legged it. You didn't give them no gyp like the kids today — you'd be too scared they'd give you a back-hander." She blames the schools for the current anti-police attitude among children and teenagers. "They're brain-washing our children. It's unbelievable and it's sad. And I think it's going to get worse. The general public seems to want the police around and appreciate what they're there for. But the kids are being taught that the police are the enemy. Round here they start mugging at the age of 11, now."

She decided to join the police at the age of 15, when a visiting careers officer suggested it.

She became a cadet two years later after a spell in the local tax office merely served to confirm her belief that she was doing the right thing. The only force with a vacancy was the Met, so she came to London for the first time in her life. "My father thought I was joking. He didn't want me to become a cop."

She quickly learned that there are few allowances made for women in the police force. "The work is the same as it is for the men. How many other women do you know who, by the time they're 18, have dealt with dead bodies, rape victims, accidents, drug pushers, incest, blokes with knives...? Most women of that age have a cosy office job, a regular boyfriend... it is not a life-style she envies and she sounds only a trifle wistful about the boyfriend. "Most blokes who aren't policemen don't understand why you can't get time off to see them. They go and find themselves a girl who won't leave them stuck with two theatre tickets at the last moment. It's all right for the men — most women like going out with a policeman."

Many would probably be somewhat alarmed by their girlfriend turning up for a date sporting bruises and black eyes. Rodgers admits to having had "many a good kicking". Twice she has landed up in hospital after a scrap. At such times the basic self-defence taught to police officers is of little use. "When you've got a bloke — or even a woman — who doesn't want to be nicked, they punch you and kick you and bite you. Our trainers forget that people fight dirty." She says she was a street fighter even before she joined the police, having trained with her father who was an amateur boxer.

She has found being a woman in the police force a disadvantage — except on the streets where even the villains frequently apologise for hitting her when they mistake her for a police-



WPC Jan Rodgers on the beat: "You learn by getting out there and doing it"

'A few of the lads won't work with a policewoman'

man. Within the force itself, women are held with less regard. "Quite a few of the lads won't work with a policewoman," she admits. "They think they're a liability. But a lot of the lads are good about it, they see for themselves if you're any good." Significantly, none of the men have ever refused to work with her, although her present partner, a 17th-century "clerk" officer, was "a bit reluctant when he found he had a woman partner." It is an attitude she understands. "When you are in a public disorder situation, it is frightening enough when you're with blokes. But we've settled down together quite well. It took a few jobs together to used to each other. These included covering a football match between Tottenham and Arsenal — "he saw I handled jobs all right" — and breaking up a fight in a pub."

"When we arrived the pub was completely smashed up, chairs were coming through the windows and people were fighting outside. The crowd split when we arrived; there was a man standing there brandishing a snooker cue. I should have put it down and he did, to my amazement,

and then we arrested him. I do feel the onus is on me to prove myself, but you do get a bit tired of it after a while. Especially when young lads come along and assume because you're a woman that you're no good and you know you could run rings round them. But, then, it's not a woman's job."

Her parents worry about her constantly and she never tells them about the cases she is on until they are finished. Her father, an unemployed builder, was furiously angry when she eventually told him about her decoy work. "You're bloody stupid, you are," he could have barked you over the head," he said.

She has no desire to be promoted — "out on the streets, I'm my own boss. If I was promoted I'd have someone watching everything I did". Even so, she admits that 10 years "is a long time for a woman. I'm getting old now. If I ever leave this job, I'll regret leaving it, at the same time, I'll leave, to be my own boss." Either way, she has learnt a lot — "everything," she says. "I left home at 17, a little kid, and when I went back a year later I was grown up."

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Chat on the mat



BARBARA AMIEL

Following the Prime Minister and Glens Kinnock on the campaign trail this week reinforced my belief in the superiority of women and my resentment of the feminists for insisting on mere equality. But then, coming back to my flat, where an immense pile of newspapers and unopened letters lay in wait, turned out to be a rather sombre experience. Being a woman in the 20th century has got to be the best of all worlds, but it is rather a large brief, isn't it?

The first story that caught my eye was the unhappiness of Rosie Johnston's mother with the judge who gave her daughter a nine-month jail sentence for buying a gram of heroin for Olivia Channon. The gist of her unhappiness seemed to be firstly that she had always taught her daughter to tell the truth and telling the truth in this case had got her into jail and secondly that the judge had singled out her daughter's rich and privileged background and held it against her.

A judge, of course, is entitled to take any matters he believes relevant into account. If his reasons for sentencing are fallacious, there are mechanisms for review. I suppose if judges are to take deprived backgrounds into account, as a mitigating factor in committing a crime, they are entitled to take affluent backgrounds into account as an aggravating one. My own feeling is that short of some extreme circumstance, economic considerations of any sort are neither here nor there in the matter. All the judge's remarks do in cases like this is to show us the debilitating effects of pop sociology on the equal application of the rule of law.

But I feel sorry for Mrs Johnston. You tell your children to follow such a simple precept as "tell the truth", and they follow that one and forget about all the others such as "don't have anything to do with illegal drugs". All the same, the more I listen to parents talk, the more I realize how chancy raising children can be.

One of the letters I opened was from a friend who is raising two sons on her own. One was doing rather well at school and the mother had high hopes for him. She urged him to get a summer job "in

order to learn about financial responsibility and self-reliance", she wrote to me. Her 15-year-old son followed her advice and went to work at the Churchill Hotel in London as a page boy. The first week he earned more than £300.

He never went back to school. He has been working there for three years and saves every penny he makes.

'The new permissiveness has made the old manners a little awkward'

"His big ambition," wrote his mother, "is to become the senior hall porter. Then he can eat in the dining room." The mother is distraught, seeing her son enter a career of service when she hoped he would become a professional man.

I telephoned the mother. "That's not all," she said. "I gave the older boy the same lecture and suggested that he save money by using taxis less and public transport more. He left my house at 1.30am a couple of weekends ago, and was mugged at the bus stop in Trafalgar Square. The four youths were trying to get the watch he wore and now his hands and arms are cut to shreds. What advice can a mother give?"

I thought the conversation was developing a touch of de Maupassant and so I muttered and rang off.

In a lighter vein, I note that while some of us were following the road to Wigan Pier,

the London summer season began and the first big bash was a charity auction at Christie's. Koo Stark, who was to have been a model in the fashion show, got dumped when it turned out the Duchess of York would be there.

One paper quoted Buckingham Palace officials as pointing out that even if the Duchess didn't actually have to speak to Koo, she would still have to look at her for several minutes, modelling a Zandra Rhodes dress.

I couldn't blame the Duchess of York, whose idea of a good time may not include seeing Koo Stark's sinuous torso sink by. One of the most pernicious ideas of these modern times is that ex and current female partners should be civilized towards one another.

It is true that the new permissiveness has made the old manners a little awkward. It is difficult to avoid meeting people one's companion has "known", but there is no need to encourage it. Mind you, I note that the Duke of York had to suffer seeing Paddy McVally at his wedding, but then perhaps men are wired differently from women.

There was only one bright note in the week. I finally got to read Digby Anderson's *The Spectator's Book of Improvised Cooking*. For years I have felt bullied by cook book editors. My salads disappointed, no matter how lightly I slipped sliced anchovies across the surface of the bowl or put bite-sized pieces of lettuce in plastic bags in the fridge to "crisp" them. My beef casserole meant hours in the kitchen doing something awful. I finally gave up a decade or so ago and turned my oven into a spare filing cabinet.

Digby's book won't get me to start again but served to explain why I was right not to cook. My suspicion that all those horrid, effete recipes with complicated instructions were bogus, made up by ever more desperate food editors with pages to fill, is now confirmed.

It is the shopping that counts, says Digby, and he may persuade me to try my hand at salads again now that I know such benchmark rules for salad greens as "Do not buy anything in a plastic bag from Holland".

TALKBACK

subterfuge and frequently lying, by elaborate scheming and cover-up. Dishonesty of any kind between partners is a bad thing even without any question of sexual morality.

If Sarah Harrison were to reflect that marital infidelity is in French described as "misleading one's spouse", and in German as "betraying him or her", she might feel less surprised that some people disapprove.

From Miss June Leggett, Bury Meadows, Rickmansworth, Herts

Professor Sikora's aim (Health Page, May 28) to replace the sledge-hammer treatments for cancer with "more gentle treatments tailor-made to the individual"

gives enormous hope to cancer sufferers.

Just such a method for treating breast cancer has been developed at the Breast Study Centre at Mount Vernon Hospital, Middlesbrough, by Dr Hugh Thomlinson and his team, who have pioneered a unique, long-term, gentle treatment by chemotherapy. I am one of the extremely fortunate "guinea pig" patients.

Two years before completion of the research, the Medical Research Council withdrew its grant. Around £250,000 was raised locally to keep the Unit open and permit the completion and publication of the research. Dr Thomlinson retires this autumn. Mount Vernon are unable to fund a consultant to continue the treatment, so the Unit is likely to close. What a tragedy — what a waste.

House of Lords

Records and tapes not apparatus subject to forfeit

Rudd v Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Ackner and Lord Goff of Chieveley. [Speeches June 4.] Records and cassettes used by a pirate radio operator, although capable of being described as "apparatus," did not constitute part of the apparatus for wireless telegraphy used by the operator contrary to section 1(1) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 and so were not liable to forfeiture under section 14(3) of the Act.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry from the decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Giddens and Mr Justice Schiemann) (*The Times*, April 16, 1986) to allow in part an appeal by case stated against a forfeiture order made by the Liverpool supervising magistrate on February 13, 1985, against the defendant, Jeffrey Michael Rudd, who had pleaded guilty to two offences under section 1(1) of the 1949 Act.

Miss Ann Goddard, QC and Mr Timothy Holroyde for the secretary of state; Mr Brian Leveson, QC and Mr Anthony Goff for the defendant.

LORD GOFF said that the defendant ran what was called a pirate radio station. He was caught and pleaded guilty to two charges of using apparatus for wireless telegraphy except under licence and in accordance with the Act in that behalf, contrary to section 1(1) of the 1949 Act.

A forfeiture order was made pursuant to section 14(3) of the Act which included a large number of records and cassettes.

The defendant challenged the order. The appeal (save that the defendant was allowed to retain certain records as being unique) but stated a question for the opinion of the High Court.

The Divisional Court allowed the appeal in relation to the records and cassettes on the basis that those items did not constitute apparatus within section 14(3). The House had been told that it was important for the Department of Trade and Industry to know whether, as a matter of law, items such as records and cassettes seized at pirate radio stations were liable to forfeiture under the Act, because they were often the most valuable items and their forfeiture was considered likely to constitute an effective deterrent against such illegal activity.

To consider that question it was necessary to set out certain provisions of the 1949 Act. Section 1(1) provided: "... any person who establishes or uses any station for wireless telegraphy or installs or uses any apparatus for wireless telegraphy except under and in accordance with ... a licence shall be guilty of an offence under this Act ..."

Section 14(3), as substituted by section 82 of the Telecommunications Act 1984, provided: "Where a person is convicted of ... an offence under this Act consisting in any contravention of any of the provisions of Part 1 of this Act in relation to any station for wireless telegraphy or any wireless telegraphy apparatus or in the use of any apparatus for the purpose of interfering with any wireless telegraphy ... the court may ... order all or any of the apparatus of the station, or (as the case may be) of the apparatus in connection with which the offence was committed, to be forfeited to the secretary of state."

It was submitted on behalf of the secretary of state, first, that on a true construction of section 14(3) any apparatus in connection with which the offence was committed was liable to forfeiture under section 14(3). So far as (a) was concerned, the former expression referred back to an offence in relation to any station for wireless telegraphy, and the latter to offences in relation to any wireless telegraphy apparatus or the use of any apparatus for the purpose of interfering with any wireless telegraphy.

It was plain that the words "the apparatus of the station" and "the apparatus in connection with which the offence was committed" referred back to the offences specified in (a) and elsewhere in section 14(3). So far as (b) was concerned, the former expression referred back to an offence in relation to any station for wireless telegraphy, and the latter to offences in relation to any wireless telegraphy apparatus or the use of any apparatus for the purpose of interfering with any wireless telegraphy.

It followed that, in the present case, to be liable to forfeiture, the apparatus in connection with which the offences were committed had to be wireless telegraphy apparatus.

It was secondly submitted that the Divisional Court erred in holding that the records and cassettes were not wireless telegraphy apparatus within the meaning of the Act. That submission raised two questions.

The first was whether a cassette or record actually in use at the relevant time constituted apparatus for wireless telegraphy within section 1(1) or wireless telegraphy apparatus within section 14(3).

The Divisional Court rejected the secretary of state's argument on that question on the ground that records or cassettes did not constitute "apparatus." His Lordship could not accept that approach. Apparatus was no more than equipment prepared for a purpose, and, consistently,

with such a broad definition, there was no reason why records or cassettes should not be described as "apparatus."

But could they be described, when in use in the relevant circumstances, as part of "wireless telegraphy apparatus"? A strong argument could be advanced for the proposition that they could. But his Lordship had come to the conclusion that the function of a stylus or a tape head could not, for present purposes, be differentiated from that of a microphone.

It was true that, whereas the microphone received sound waves from, for example, a voice or musical instrument and converted them into electrical energy, the stylus and tape head detected information stored in apparatus with which they were in direct contact, that is, the record or tape; but that was a distinction without any relevant difference.

If that were not correct, it would follow that a distinction would have to be drawn between a record placed on a turntable connected with a mixer unit, and a record played through a loudspeaker into a microphone connected with the mixer unit.

It followed that a record or cassette actually in use at the station at the relevant time would not constitute part of the apparatus for wireless telegraphy used without a licence, and so would not form part of the wireless telegraphy apparatus in connection with which the offence was committed and would not be liable to forfeiture under section 14(3).

For that reason alone the appeal must be dismissed.

But, since the second question raised by the secretary of state's second submission had been a

matter of detailed argument, it should be briefly considered.

That question was whether records or cassettes not actually being played on a turntable or player at the station could nevertheless be said to form part of the relevant wireless telegraphy apparatus because they were available for use there at the relevant time.

In *D (a Minor) v Yates (The Times*, March 28, 1984) the applicant had been convicted of using a transmitter for wireless telegraphy without a licence. It was not proved that she had switched the set on, only that she kept it available for operation.

The Divisional Court held that the offence had been established, relying on *Elliot v Grey* (1960) 1 QB 367, in that case the owner of a car which was incapable of being mechanically propelled left it in the road, suspending the third-party insurance policy.

The Divisional Court upheld a conviction under section 33(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1930 which provided that "it shall not be lawful for any person to use ... a motor vehicle on a road" without third-party insurance. Lord Parker, Lord Chief Justice, concluded that the word "use" in the subsection meant "have the use of."

It was not difficult to understand the reasons why the Divisional Court construed section 33(1) of the 1930 Act as it did. But those reasons did not apply in the case of section 1(1) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949. There was no good reason why the word "use" in that subsection should not be given other than its natural and ordinary meaning.

Further, there were other sections in the Act in which "use" appeared which indicated that the word was used in its ordinary sense when referring to offences under the Act in relation to using wireless telegraphy apparatus.

To construe "use" or "uses" in any of those sections as having the broad meaning "has available for use" would be in conflict with the principle that words in a statute creating a criminal offence should, if ambiguous, be given a narrow rather than a broad construction.

His Lordship recognized that that conclusion might create problems for enforcing authorities. They would if necessary have to persuade the court to draw the inference that the apparatus in question had been used by the defendant during the relevant period.

But his Lordship believed that if, for example, a television set in working order was found in the sitting room of a house occupied by the defendant, it would not be difficult for a court to draw the necessary inference in the absence of some credible explanation by the defendant to the effect that it was not being used.

His Lordship would overrule *D (a Minor) v Yates* and conclude that the mere fact that records and cassettes were available for use at an unlicensed wireless telegraphy station (even if they were capable of forming part of the relevant wireless telegraphy apparatus) would not of itself render them liable to forfeiture under section 14(3) of the 1949 Act.

Lord Bridge, Lord Brandon, Lord Parker and Lord Ackner agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor, DTL, Goldsmiths, Liverpool.

Queen's Bench Division

Duty of bank over cheques

Redmond v Allied Irish Banks

The duty owed by a bank to its customer, to take reasonable care in ascertaining, interpreting and acting in accordance with his instructions, did not extend to requiring the bank to warn the customer that it was risky to pay into his account a generally endorsed cheque of which he was not the payee and which was crossed "not negotiable" account payee only, because he might be liable if the holder of the cheque from whom he had received it did not have good title to it since he could give no better title than the holder had.

Other considerations might apply if the customer, having expressly sought advice in respect of such a transaction or if it had been volunteered to him by the bank.

Mr Justice Saville so held in a reserved judgment in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division on May 22, dismissing the plaintiff's claim for repayment of moneys debited by the defendant bank from his account, in respect of loss suffered by it in

collecting three such cheques to which the holder from whom he had received them had no title.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the plaintiff had conceded that the bank had been entitled to an indemnity in respect of any liability to the true owners incurred by it in collecting the cheques.

His Lordship had heard no argument on the point, but he regarded the assumption involved as questionable, at least in respect of the two cheques which the plaintiff had not endorsed, since it involved the assumption that the bank was entitled to indemnity against the consequences of its own negligence in collecting such cheques for the customer's account.

Correction

In *R v Committee acting for the Visitor of the University of London, Ex parte Vijayalingam* (*The Times* May 14) all references to Mrs Vijayalingam should have read Miss Vijayalingam.

Sharpe Pritchard

As part of our planned expansion we are moving our Holborn office to larger premises. Consequently, with effect from 7th June 1987 our new address is:

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All details for our Westminster office are unchanged.

Thatcher and Kinnock battle

Continued from page 1

rather than healing it and had looked after the strong while the weak went to the wall.

She launched into an impromptu statement of her political philosophy, taking up a five minutes of the conference.

Citing trade union reform and the sale of council houses as the areas where she had blurred the divide between haves and have nots, the Prime Minister declared that only the "Marxist approach of the modern day Labour Party" was hindering her quest for a society free of class conflict.

She seized on the most radical elements of the Tory manifesto, which have proved an obstacle in campaign terms, to argue that only the planned upheavals in education and housing policy could complete the process of transferring power from the "black vote" of the trade union leaders and the municipal empires of the Town Halls to the individual.

Her outburst showed that, despite the difficulties that her radical manifesto has brought to the Tory campaign, Mrs Thatcher herself is determined not to be defensive over a document that amounts to a personal testament of her most deep-seated beliefs and instincts.

"If it hadn't been for the Marxist approach of the modern day Labour Party, class would be totally irrelevant to this society we are creating," she said, speaking from the heart for the first time since blundering over the opt-out clause in the education proposals.

Mrs Thatcher said that the Government, by confronting trade union power through its new laws, had bridged the "great divide" in the workplace and brought industrial cooperation where there had once been "colossal conflict", fomented by the left.

Labour's 'tax grab' to start at £15,000

Continued from page 1

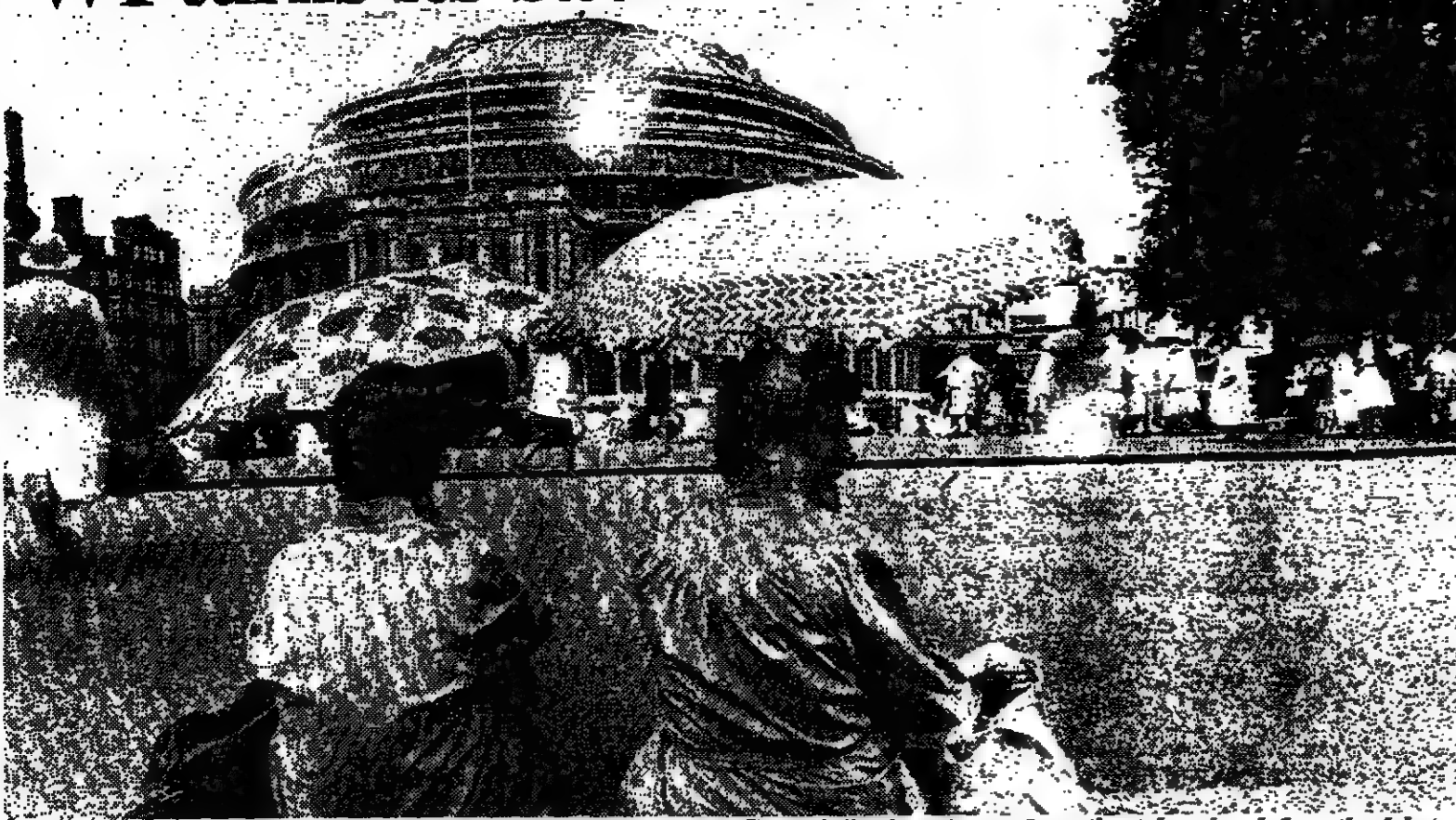
higher child benefits - an increase of £7.36 a week for the first child and £3 a week for others - and pension rises of £5 a week for single people and £8 a week for married couples.

Mr Kinnock said: "The people incurring a loss are the ones on the higher level of income."

"The fact that we are paying the increased family benefit would offset any net tax losses that went with the loss of the married man's allowance."

Last night, Mr Lawson's aides were puzzling over the Labour leader's remarks, the latest development in a gathering political storm over the Opposition scheme.

WI turns its back on the sheltered life



Dodging the showers outside the Albert Hall, two delegates at the Women's Institutes' annual meeting take a break from the debates.



Facing up to the twentieth century under a variety of millinery. The WI chairman, Mrs Agnes Salter, is in the centre of the lower row.



The good ladies of the Women's Institute left the Albert Hall yesterday for their annual jamboree at the Albert Hall, London, with a determination to confront the perils of the late twentieth century (Michael Horsnell writes).

With overwhelming majorities, the 6,000 delegates voted to urge government control of the aggressive and indiscriminate sale of credit, and to have irradiated food until a reliable test is available to determine whether strawberries and cream (as well as other foodstuffs) has been so treated.

Mrs Dorothy Banham (Fulham and Brompton) spoke of the "frightening increase in debt".

She described today's easy credit as "an enticing invitation, especially for the young."

Mrs Banham spoke of the bleak outlook for many families tempted by credit only to find themselves in difficulties trying to repay. She suggested credit card companies should join the Government to provide a national credit register to help to set would-be borrowers, protection plans to assist those who get into difficulty, advice centres and better education. "Let the young learn that credit has to be paid for," she said.

The resolution was seconded by Mrs Sheila Morse (Ashby de la Zouche WI, Leicestershire), who reminded

delegates of the amiable Mr Micawber and his six-penny equation of financial misery.

Mrs Morse said shoplifting was a euphemism for stealing, and credit a euphemism for debt.

The chairman, Mrs Agnes Salter, spoke of the need to increase membership of the federation, which has 9,000 branches, up 99 on the previous year.

Mrs Salter (Stoke Lyne WI, Oxfordshire) also re-emphasized the movement to the improvement of conditions of women in rural areas, covering everything from the monitoring of acid rain to the closure of village schools.

Campaign sketch

The cut and thrust of kiddie politics

Extending her campaign policy of restricting her exclusive interview to those inquisitive people between the ages of three and five, Mrs Margaret Thatcher went straight for the nappy-wearing voter with a trip to "kiddies corner" at the Alton Towers theme park, Staffordshire.

Conservative strategists have determined that children aged three will be able to vote in the year 2002, when Mrs Thatcher will be entering her fifth term of office as Prime Minister. By that time, many old-age pensioners of today will be disenfranchised owing to death, whilst those waiting in national health queues for major operations will be only a couple of years away from their hospital bed, and thus too excited to rock the boat.

By 2002, the unemployed will have grown used to it, and the school leaver will be unable to spell "X", so today's nappy-wearer must obviously be the main target of any far-sighted political party.

With this in mind, the tour kicked off with a demonstration of dancing hydraulic diggers. The factory organizers, all in Redcoat blazers, kept the Press at bay while a hideous five-minute medley of well-known classical hits set to a rock beat blared out and the vast machines began their strangely obscene "dance", now lifting up their scoops, now pirouetting, now coming to a happy close.

Denis was delighted. "Fabulous!" he exclaimed while the clumsy vehicles turned turtle to a reggae "Bession of the 1812 Overture". "Best thing I've ever seen", he assured the managing director as he left.

This was, of course, a "photo opportunity" for possible inclusion in *Dandy* and *Schoolfriend*. "What about the unemployed, Mrs Thatcher?" shouted a spoilsport reporter as she beamed past. "Tremendous, terribly clever," replied Mrs Thatcher, beaming.

Press etiquette dictates that if one aids the editor of *Dandy* in the morning, then one is duty bound to award the editor of *Tiny Toes* with a photo opportunity in the afternoon. Alton Towers proved splendid for the purpose. The Prime Minister was greeted by a man dressed in

pink frills with a floppy Gertrude Shilling-style hat.

Was this a disgraced former Cabinet minister taking his first tentative steps towards rehabilitation in the eyes of the public? No, it was Stuart Hall, the ex-television co-personality, although his fawning presence was never explained.

Unfortunately, Central Office had not reckoned with the fact that on Thursday afternoons, the disgruntled unemployed constitute a fair part of the population of Alton Towers. While she boarded the Skyride Luxury Gondola and travelled over Fantasy World, she was followed by a host of "Ex-Thatcher" and less recalcitrant exclamations.

Disembarking from the gondola, she caught sight of a member of her target group. "Hello, and what is your favourite ride?" she asked a boy aged four. "Football", he replied. "Ah, a tricky customer! 'Oh! Is there football at Alton Towers?' asked the Prime Minister, quite happy to indulge in the cut and thrust of Kiddie Politics. "No, but there is at home," replied the boy, undoubtedly a future recruit for Militant tendency.

After this bout of Catch-the-Child, Mrs Thatcher passed Pope's Tuck Shop Potato Bar, three jugglers, two men on stilts, Henry the Dog and the Grand Canyon Rapids, and entered Josiah Wedgwood's workshop after glancing in the window of Toys Fair (Princess of Power, Double Trouble, the Hello Colour Toys).

Emerging from Josiah Wedgwood's workshop, Mrs Thatcher caught sight at last of the corps of grown-ups who had been following her, unnoticed, all day. Bravely ignoring the kiddie vote she allowed them a couple of minutes to question her.

"Is this really a suitable venue for an election campaign?" asked a clever-clogs grown up. "Yes, indeed," began the Prime Minister, but as she was about to continue, toytown news blared out from the Henry the Dog machine. It seems that a chocolate and toffee trail has led investigators to a friendly ghost called Charlie. That's the kind of good news Britain so sorely needs.

Craig Brown

British envoys in Iran shred official documents

Continued from page 1

spokesman at the ornate building on Princess Street described consular members as "upset and disappointed". The spokesman threatened economic retaliation against Britain and added: "We are sad this has happened and are convinced the charges against Mr Ghassemlou were brought in an attempt to discredit and embarrass our Government."

The consulate in Manchester, opened by the former Shah of Iran in 1975, was described by Foreign Office sources as "a useful listening post" on the Iranian community in northern England and said its closure would be a blow to Tehran.

The expulsion order leaves 19 accredited diplomats in both capitals, but given Iran's treatment of Mr Chaplin and American diplomats held hostage in Iran in 1979, observers feel an Iranian reaction is inevitable.

If an Iran decides to expel any British, Mr Chaplin is expected to be numbered among them. Since two of the charges now levelled against him by the Iranians carry the death penalty, his departure would be a relief for the

Foreign Office as well as to his close diplomatic colleagues.

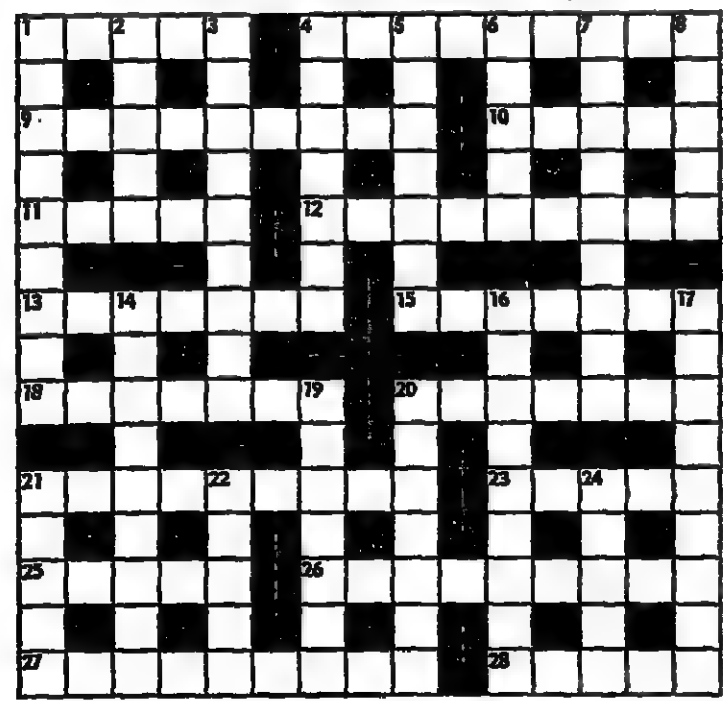
Of particular concern is the effect the British action could have on the fate of Mr Roger Cooper, imprisoned in Iran for 18 months. And Iran's considerable leverage over kidnapping groups in Lebanon could jeopardize the release of the Anglican church envoy Mr Terry Waite, and the British journalist, Mr John McCarthy.

In Britain there are an estimated 25,000 Iranian residents, 1,000 students and 36,000 visitors a year. The British community living in

Iran numbers only 250, but the Foreign Office repeated its warning yesterday that visitors should postpone any planned trips to the country until the diplomatic storm had died down.

The souring of relations leaves Britain effectively isolated from hardline Middle Eastern states. The Government severed links with Libya in 1984, following the murder of WPC Yvonne Fletcher, and with Syria last year, after a Damascus envoy was implicated in an attempt to blow up an Israeli passenger jet at Heathrow.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,375



- ACROSS**
- Cleaned up and tied the knot, without a bean (5).
 - Stop building house by Panamanian port (4-5).
 - Stories dogging pious French king in the USA (9).
 - College circle that's caught between opposing sides (5).
 - Call experts to identify this writing (5).
 - The same small container is found in the West Indies (9).
 - Flyer's complaint about a touring car (7).
 - Sounds like a certain battle call (7).
 - Adverts about Oriental cigarettes (7).
 - One confirming payment for midday courses (7).
 - Play without dialogue (9).
 - Half-hearted backing for favourite American state (5).
 - One's left subtle hints, that's plain (5).
 - Badly hurt once by knight's cudgel (9).
 - Cafe housing explosive device in unstable state (9).
 - Time for a sight of our opponents (5).
- DOWN**
- Determination is certain to? Might (4-5).
 - Infamous ruler with pipe under bed (5).
 - Reckless speed possibly leading to rebuke (9).
 - Scrutinize rising young man in disgrace (7).
 - Smogs upset young Weller's direction (7).
 - Monarch causing dispute within the boundaries of Canton (5).
 - Simple garment fashionable clergy look at first (9).
 - Material stocked in many London stores (5).
 - Development not permitted for this inexperienced band (5,4).
 - Shame, to cut end off untidy facial hair (9).
 - Stalk about in New York displaying such harshness (9).
 - Relentless skill in bridge (7).
 - Arched fiver seen by means of the Tube (7).
 - Low quarters for a creature that strips trees (5).
 - How to court girls, some say? It's a fact (5).
 - Each abandoned a musical composition (5).

WEATHER

A low will drift slowly east over northern areas as a frontal trough moves rapidly east in the south to keep the weather generally unsettled. Rain will reach Northern Ireland by morning and will spread to most of northern England, North Wales and much of Scotland during the day although the extreme north-east of Scotland may well stay dry. Southern and central areas of England and Wales will have a dry, bright start but rain will spread rapidly from the west later in the morning and afternoon. Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Unsettled with rain and turning much cooler and showery on Sunday.

ABROAD

Midday	C	F	Cloud	D	Drizzle	L	Light	R	Rain	S	Snow	T	Thunder
Algeria	24	75											
Alexandria	22	72											
Athens	24	75											
Bahia	24	75											
Bombay	24	75											
Buenos Aires	24	75											
Calcutta	24	75											
Cairo	24	75											
Colon	24	75											
Hankow	24	75											
Harbin	24	75											
Hong Kong	24	75											
Kobe	24	75											
London	24	75											
Lyons	24	75											
Manila	24	75											
Medan	24	75											
Paris	24	75											
Rangoon	24	75											
San Francisco	24	75											
Singapore	24	75											
Sourabaya	24	75											
Tientsin	24	75											
Yokohama	24	75											

AROUND BRITAIN

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Drizzle	L	Light	R	Rain	S	Snow	T	Thunder
Birmingham	18	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Bristol	18	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Cardiff	18	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Edinburgh	18	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Glasgow	18	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
London	18	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Manchester	18	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Newcastle	18	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Nottingham	18	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Oxford	18	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Sheffield	18	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Sunderland	18	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Swansea	18	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Torquay	18	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Wolverhampton	18	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Wrexham	18	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

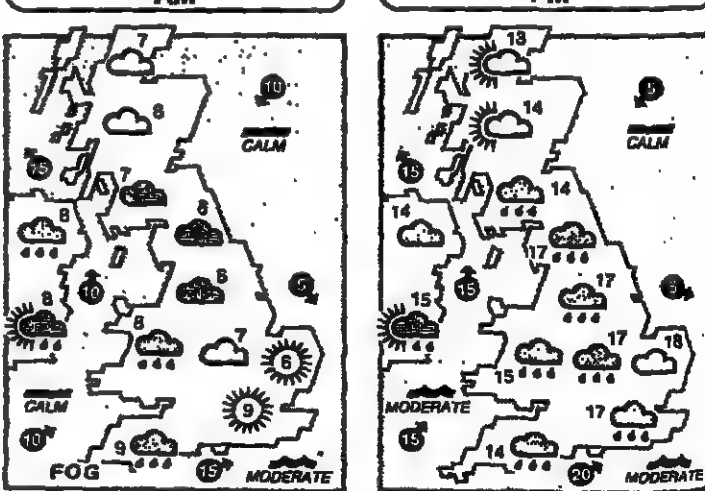
HIGH TIDES

Location	Time	Height
London Bridge	12:21	5.8
Southampton	12:21	5.8
Cardiff	12:21	5.8
Edinburgh	12:21	5.8
Glasgow	12:21	5.8
Newcastle	12:21	5.8
Nottingham	12:21	5.8
Oxford	12:21	5.8
Sheffield	12:21	5.8
Sunderland	12:21	5.8
Swansea	12:21	5.8
Torquay	12:21	5.8
Wolverhampton	12:21	5.8
Wrexham	12:21	5.8

THE POUND

Country	Rate
Australia	1.50
Canada	1.25
France	6.50
Germany	2.30
Italy	1.35
Japan	160.00
Netherlands	2.20
Portugal	200.00
Spain	166.67
Sweden	10.36
Switzerland	2.00
USA	1.00
Yugoslavia	136.36

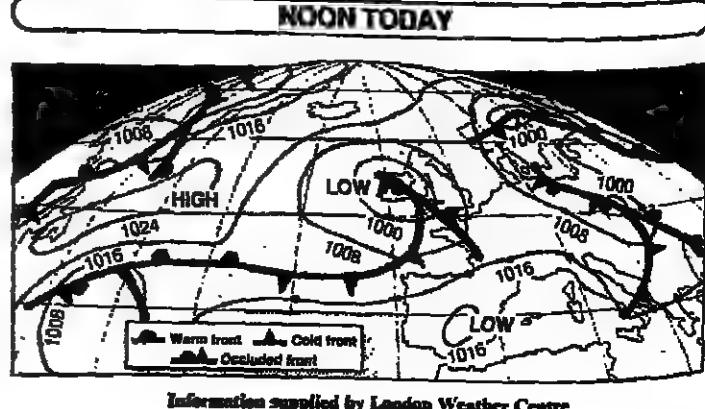
AM



PM



YESTERDAY



MANCHESTER



HIGHEST & LOWEST



Campaign sketch
cut and then
middle politics

PART 2

FRIDAY JUNE 5 1987

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1724.6 (-15.0)

FT-SE 100
2214.2 (-21.2)

Bargains
44836 (41645)

USM (Datastream)
181.39 (-0.57)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6245 (-0.0190)

W German mark
2.9525 (-0.0157)

Trade-weighted
72.5 (-0.3)

A tapioca 'mountain' for EEC

The EEC has a new and costly food mountain - 6,000 tonnes of Vietnamese tapioca - due to a misunderstanding between Brussels and the feed trade.

The Community's animal feed trade association, Cereals, said yesterday that it was the EEC's failure to set a quota for imports until this spring that allowed the stocks to build up.

When a quota was finally set, traders found they had already imported more than the permitted amount. The tapioca - animal feed rather than the stuff of school puddings - will now have to stay in warehouses in West Germany and the Netherlands until next year at a storage cost of about £20 per tonne.

In tomorrow's *Family Money* the disappointing public response to Government-approved personal equity plans is discussed, as are the advantages of investing in Australia with a general election coming up there soon.

High hopes

Lorho left the City disappointed yesterday with interim pretax profits of £76.1 million against £71.1 million on a turnover of £1.37 billion, although the group forecasts that year-end profits will be "handsomely" ahead. The dividend is effectively increased by 10 per cent to 4p a share after the one-for-10 capitalisation issue.

Temps, page 22

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2322.97 (+2.28)
Tokyo	Nikkei Dow	2536.11 (+316.71)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	3023.80 (+38.50)
Amsterdam	Gen	287.9 (+2.3)
Frankfurt	Gen	1772.4 (-4.3)
Brussels	Gen	1782.4 (+5.2)
Paris	CAC	4527.8 (-25.8)
Zurich	Gen	515.0 (-5.4)
London	FT A	1724.6 (-15.0)
FT B	Gen	2214.2 (-21.2)
FT C	Gen	181.39 (-0.57)

Recent issues
Closing prices
Page 24

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RIBES:	Henderson Group	255p (+13p)
	Polypipe	288p (+10p)
	J. Jarvis	325p (+20p)
	Western Selection	124p (+11p)
	Airflow	145p (+15p)
	Savoy A	510p (+18p)
	Salitine Boats	350p (+20p)
	First Leisure	588p (+19p)
	Associated Book	403p (+23p)
	Wace Group	158p (+10p)
	Jacksons Bourne	670p (+15p)
	Great Western	208p (+20p)
	Mersey Docks	66p (+20p)
	Grampian Holdings	252p (+13p)
	Regellan Props.	280p (+10p)

FALLS:
Body Shop 780p (-45p)
Nat Westminster 680p (-10p)
Electrocomponents 484p (-21p)
Wordplex 120p (-10p)
Yorkshire TV 258p (-25p)
Prices are as at 4pm

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 9%
3-month interbank 8% 8 1/4%
3-month eligible bills 8 1/4% 8 1/2%
buying rate
US: Prime Rate 8 1/4%
Federal Funds 6 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.73-5.71%
30-year bonds 100-100 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£/\$	\$1.6245
£/DM	DM1.8180
£/Sfr	Sfr1.4465
£/Yen	¥148.30
£/Yen	¥148.30
£/Yen	¥148.30
£/Yen	¥148.30
£/Yen	¥148.30
£/Yen	¥148.30

GOLD

London: Fixing
AM \$450.25 pm \$452.75
close \$451.75-462.25 (\$277.75-278.25)
New York: Fixing
Comex \$451.90-452.40

NORTH SEA OIL

Brexit (July)	pm \$18.80 (\$18.85)
Denotes latest trading price	
Oil Summary	22 Money Mkts 24
Oil News	22 Foreign Exch 24
Stock Market	22 Traded Optis 24
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Cin Diary	22 Unit Tracts 25
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-26
SPORT 30-34

UK wipes out £1bn deficit

Profits from abroad increase sharply

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

A sharp upward increase in earnings on foreign investments has virtually eliminated the balance of payments deficit originally calculated for Britain last year.

The new figures, with a better-than-expected trade performance in the first quarter of this year, suggest that Treasury and some City forecasts of a sizeable current account deficit this year are unduly pessimistic.

The current account deficit for last year, which had been estimated at £1.1 billion, was revised down by £1 billion to just £120 million yesterday.

The revision was due to new information on Britain's invisible earnings and, in particular, the discovery that profits repatriated to Britain by foreign subsidiaries were greater than first estimated.

In addition, the amount of profits sent abroad by foreign companies operating in Britain was lower than first thought.

The downward revision of the deficit for last year, together with a £500 million

upward revision of the 1985 surplus, suggests that Britain's current account position has been stronger than was generally thought. The 1985 surplus was revised up from £2.946 billion to £3.45 billion.

Much of this strength is due to the buoyancy of invisible earnings - on services such as aviation and shipping, and on interest, profits and dividends.

The estimated surplus on invisibles rose from £5.628 billion in 1985 to £8.133 billion last year.

It means that, despite last year's sharp fall in world oil prices, there was no significant dip into deficit on the current account.

"These figures are very encouraging in that they are based on new information on interest, profit and dividends," said Mr Keith Skochoch, chief economist at James Capel. "Any initial deficit estimated for 1987 will probably be revised."

The City consensus is for a current account deficit this year of between £1 billion and

£2 billion. The Treasury forecast, published in the March 17 Budget, is for a £2.5 billion deficit.

But in the first quarter, according to yesterday's figures, the current account was in surplus by £667 million, while the invisibles were in surplus by £1.802 billion. And the current account remained positive, by £96 million, last month.

The good balance of payments figures helped the pound, but finally opinion poll worries dominated the day's trading. It fell by 1.9 pence to \$1.6245 and by 1.6 pence to DM2.9538. The sterling index was down 0.3 points to 72.5.

In spite of a recent good run of trade figures, including yesterday's balance of payments data, longer-term worries about the current account remain.

An analysis published today by Phillips & Drew, the broker, predicts an average current account deficit of £3 billion a year if the Conservative party is re-elected.



Andrea Lewis, who received £25,000 for a share in her courier company, with Sir Philip Harris yesterday

Young businesses win their reward

By Joe Joseph

Five fledgling businesses were given a boost yesterday with a cheque, and a lifetime to valuable business know-how from Sir Philip Harris's Young Entrepreneurs Fund.

Those chosen for a new life in the fast lane range from a courier service to a financial services company that helps council tenants buy their own homes. Between them they received more than £150,000 in return for a stake in their companies.

They will also benefit from the watchful eye of Sir Philip, assistance from a finance director, and professional and management advice. Profits earned by the fund through its shareholding will be reinvested in other young businesses.

The fund was founded 18 months ago when Sir Philip, chairman of the Harris Queensway stores group, set aside £1 million of his own money to try and help small struggling businesses that he felt had a future.

Factory productivity 'better than estimated'

The underlying growth in productivity in British manufacturing has been almost 5 per cent a year during the 1980s, according to an analysis published by Credit Suisse First Boston today.

This is higher than productivity growth rates of 3 to 4 per cent annually recorded in manufacturing industry in Japan, Germany and the United States.

The paper, *Britain's Productivity Renaissance*, suggests that output per head in industry has been growing faster over the past few years than at any time since the war.

The author, Mr Peter Spencer, rejects the argument that most of the increase in Britain's industrial productivity has been due to the cyclical recovery in output.

"Our estimates suggest an underlying increase of 4.8 per cent a year for the 1980s," he said. "This leaves just 2.5 per cent of the 7.3 per cent increase over the last year to be explained by the economic upturn."

The analysis suggests that long-term productivity growth of 4 per cent a year is on the cards for Britain and that, with average earnings growing by 7 per cent a year, the growth in wage costs per unit of output will settle at around 3 per cent a year.

Credit Suisse First Boston argues that the good performance on unit labour costs in Britain has ensured that industry has made the most of the competitive gains brought about by sterling's devaluation against the European currencies.

\$25m penalty ends Kidder Peabody case

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US Securities and Exchange Commission yesterday announced a settlement, estimated at more than \$25 million (£15 million), against Kidder Peabody & Co, the General Electric Company subsidiary that has been a target of the government's insider-trading investigation.

Government officials said the penalty, the largest ever filed against a securities firm and the second largest in the SEC's history, would terminate the government's case against Kidder Peabody. In return, the company has agreed to co-operate with the government inquiry.

The only SEC settlement bigger than the agreement reached yesterday was the \$100 million paid by Mr Ivan Boesky, the disgraced arbiter, on insider trading charges.

GE executives, concerned over uncertainty that has hampered Kidder's operations since last February, had been negotiating with the government for months to settle the civil charges and prevent future criminal charges.

As a result of the SEC settlement, Mr Robert Giuliani, the US attorney conducting the government's criminal inquiry, said he would not seek an indictment against Kidder Peabody.

In a related development, GE Financial Services said it would provide an additional \$100 million in subordinated debt capital for Kidder Peabody as "an expression of support and confidence".

Kidder had been accused of profiting illegally on insider information as a result of trades executed by Mr Martin Siegel, a former takeover specialist, who pleaded guilty to two felonies last February.

In court papers filed in New York, he said he was on the verge of uncovering an insider trading conspiracy involving "nine of the biggest deals in the American economic landscape in 1984 and 1985."

As a result of the settlement negotiated with the SEC, Kidder will in effect return all profits associated with the deals questioned by the government as illegal.

Smith New Court to raise £53m

By Alexandra Jackson

Smith New Court plans to double its capital base by raising approximately £53 million. This is part of a continuing transformation of the company from a London based jobbing firm into an international securities operation.

It is proposed that SNC will acquire and subsequently disband NCT, an investment trust, worth about £38 million and will place £15 million of 12 per cent subordinated unsecured loan stock with 'A' warrants. This is the third fund raising exercise undertaken by SNC in as many years.

Details of this deal accompanied the unveiling of pretax profits up from £6.2 million to £10.4 million for the year to the end of April 1987. Fully diluted earnings per share rose from 17.2p to 20.8p. A final dividend of 6p was declared making a total of 798p.

SNC's capital base has gone up 10 times in the last five years as the business has grown to include increasing market-making activities.

Temps, page 22

Industry plans 8 per cent increase in investment

British industry has increased its investment plans sharply over the past few months, according to the latest Department of Trade and Industry investment intentions survey, published yesterday.

The survey suggests there will be a rise of 8 per cent in the volume of investment by industry this year, with a similar rise next year.

Manufacturing industry is expected to lift investment by 4 per cent this year, and by somewhat more in 1988.

In the DTI's December 1986 survey, manufacturing industry only expected a 2 per cent investment increase this year. Investment intentions are particularly buoyant in the metals, minerals and electrical engineering industries.

The other main sectors of industry - construction, distribution and selected services - plan a 10 per cent increase in investment this year and a slightly smaller rise in 1988.

The boom areas for investment are in the retail and catering trades, says the survey.

The survey's overall prediction, of an 8 per cent rise in industrial investment this year, compares with the December figure of 6 per cent.

The latest survey results indicate that investment is more buoyant than predicted by the Treasury in the Budget in March. The Treasury forecast of a 4 per cent rise in business investment was consistent with the results of the previous DTI survey.

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, will set up the panel if the two consortia seeking a licence to operate international telecommunications services fail to agree on merger terms.

Mr Nakasone said: "If I receive a formal report that unification has become impossible, then I assume we shall be accepting applications from both groups. I'll have them considered by a government council in a fair and transparent manner."

His comments imply that the Japanese government will then accept the argument that C&W has been advancing all along - that there is room for two new competitors to the monopoly holder, Kokusai Denshin Denwa.

A further meeting of middle-level managers of the eight core companies is expected soon, but it seems unlikely that it will make any progress on the issues dividing the two sides.

Temps, page 22
Kenneth Fleet, page 23
Tokyo concessions, page 23

Frinton model for Anglia Secure Homes

Welcome for sheltered houses

By John Bell, City Editor

Frinton-on-Sea, Essex, is the closest you will come to a perfectly preserved piece of 1930s middle-class England. The well-to-do who have made their pile in the City or the rat race of East London come there by the score to spend their retirement years in genteel tranquillity. The golf club and the tennis club remain the centres of social activity. There is nothing so vulgar as a pub, picnics on the greensward by the sea are strictly forbidden and there is never a kiss me quick hat to be seen. Some call it God's departure lounge.

It was the perfect place for Mr Peter Edmondson to learn the business of building sheltered homes for the retired. After working there as an estate agent, he launched Anglia Secure Homes in 1982 and last year it went public with a £10.6 million market value. Anglia shares soared to 435p meantime as investors clamoured to buy into a fast growing segment of the building industry whose only other quoted exponent is the much bigger McCarthy & Stone.

Yesterday Anglia took another giant stride forward with a deal which will give it a market value of £61 million after a heavy rights issue of four-for-seven. It says a lot for the City's view of the sheltered housing business that far from falling on news of such a hefty funding, Anglia shares rose 30p to 465p.

Anglia is buying a Norwich based group, Retirement Appreciation, which is also a developer of sheltered accommodation, for £11.6 million. The move effectively doubles Anglia's size. This year Retirement Appreciation plans to build 305 units compared with Anglia's expected completions of 256. The combined companies expect to build 838 units next year. Last financial year Anglia sold 107 units.

Retirement Appreciation has been considering a flotation for some time. But it has financed its growth on heavy bank borrowings and would have required up to two years to recapitalize itself before making an attractive package for a stock market debut. The rights issue will raise a further £8.26 million to refinance Retirement Appreciation and

to furnish the enlarged group with working capital needs for some time to come.

"This acquisition represents the equivalent of two years growth for the group, greatly increases our resources and widens our geographical spread," said Mr Edmondson yesterday. The rights shares, which are being offered at 375p per share, are being taken up in full by the British and Commonwealth group, which has backed Anglia from the start and now owns more than 20 per cent of its equity.

Anglia also produced its interim report for the six months to March, a period of low activity which is little guide to the full year outcome. They showed a drop from £175,000 to £109,000, but it is clear from the existing work programme that Anglia is on course for increased profits over the full year. Shareholders are to receive a maiden interim dividend of 0.7p per share. Prospects look excellent. By the early 1990s elderly people will account for well above 20 per cent of the population, almost double the immediate post war level.

We are pleased to announce that with effect from 8 June 1987 The Royal Bank of Canada main branch 6 Lothbury will be relocated at:

71/71A Queen Victoria Street
London EC4V 4DE



THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA

Telephone: 01-489 1188
Facsimile: 01-329 6065
Telex: 929111

BUSINESS SUMMARY

Forecast downgraded at Paterson, Zochonis

Paterson, Zochonis, an overseas trader, has downgraded its profit expectations for the year ended May 31 by between £5 million and £6 million, after a sharp fall in the value of the Nigerian currency. The news, which suggests full-year profits at PZ will be about £28 million or £29 million against £42.29 million, clipped 30p off the share price at 386p.

On March 17, PZ announced half-yearly profits of £16.31 million against £20.87 million previously, but indicated that profits for the second half would be comparable with those for the same period last year. The Nigerian exchange rate on May 31 was significantly below the rate on which the forecasts and the half-year profits were based.

Century Oils lifts profits

A return to profits in the US, where manufacture has been concentrated at Huntington, West Virginia, helped lift profits at Century Oils, the lubricants group, from £5.14 million to £5.87 million in the year to end-March. Earnings per share were 17.31p against 15.85p, and the final dividend is being raised to 4.15p (3.5p), making 5.75p for the year (5p).

Good half for Miss Sam

Miss Sam, the fashion design company floated on the stock market late last year, made a pretax profit of £1.2 million in the first half of the year, up from £1 million. Sales rose from £5.6 million to £6.4 million. The company says orders are higher than at the same time last year and it is looking at possible acquisitions. The shares eased 7p to 135p.

Majestic acquisition

The privately owned Majestic Wine Warehouses group has confirmed the \$100 million-plus (£61 million) purchase of the 104-store Liquor Barn chain in the US, backed with finance from a group of institutions led by Nightingale and Company, and Kidder Peabody.

Majestic, which started life with premises bought from the official receiver, believes it is Britain's largest speciality retailer of wines, and operates through 21 warehouses in the Midlands, South and West of England. Sales for the year to end-June are expected to be about £12.5 million, against £7.4 million last year. Liquor Barn has stores in California and Arizona, and in the year to January 3 had sales of \$332 million.

STOCK MARKET

Investors run for cover as poll reports take their toll

By Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster

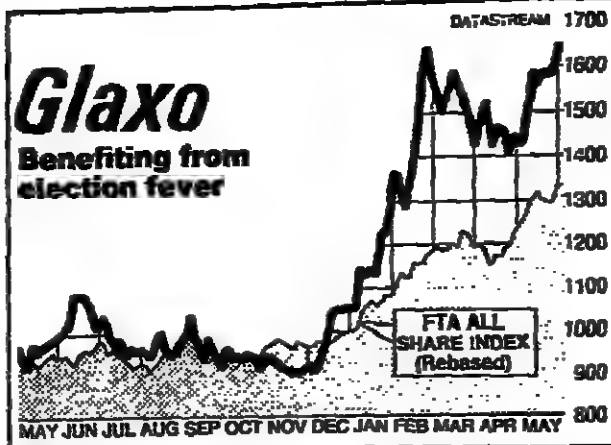
The stock market remained at the mercy of the rumour-mongers yesterday as wild stories continued to circulate about soon-to-be-published opinion polls showing the Conservative lead being eroded.

As a result, share prices again nosedived after Tuesday's fall. The FT-SE 100 share index fell 33.2 points at one stage before recovering some of its composure to close 21.2 lower at 2,214.2 following Wednesday's record-breaking run. The FT 30 share index finished just above its worst levels of the day 15.0 shorter at 1,724.6, having been 2.0 points higher early on.

Most of the rumours emanated in the futures market with the knock-on effect soon being felt in the equity market as investors ran for cover. But selling pressure was described as light with marketmakers taking full advantage of the situation to try and top up their books.

Dealers described conditions as extremely nervous and vulnerable to the rumours. Many marketmen are starting to doubt the credibility of some of the polls following their recent volatile performances — particularly in the marginal seats.

The rumour-mongers have



glaxed the upper hand and are starting to test some of the younger traders in the market," said one leading broker.

But most brokers claimed

We could see some action in Thomas Locker, the filtration engineer, with the "A" shares on 33p and the ordinary on 46p both nudging their year's high. There is talk of Williams Holdings building up a near 5 per cent stake. Dealers are already dreaming of a full bid eventually.

the shake-out had more to do with the absence of the big buyers than anything else and expected share prices to go better nearer polling day.

Government securities spent another lacklustre day with prices at the longer end stretching to 5½ despite a steady performance by the pound.

The conditions attached to Brazil's offer to pay back half the interest owed on its commercial bank loans wiped away all of Wednesday's strong gains by banks, and then some more. Barclays fell 26p to 534p, Lloyds 34p to 630p, Midland 34p to 630p and National Westminster 14p to 675p.

The privatization stocks were an obvious target for the market. British Telecom lost 4p to 314p, after 312p. British Aerospace 7p to 590p and British Gas partly-paid 4p to 180p as 22 million shares changed hands.

Shares of Glaxo, Britain's largest pharmaceutical manufacturer, bucked the trend moving towards its high for the year, closing 25p up at £16.52p. Apparently, investors are beginning to warm to the prospect of a Wall Street listing by the end of the month.

Glaxo has been traded in the form of American depositary receipts since the 1950s, but in un-sponsored form. About 16 per cent of the group's shares are said to be currently held through ADRs, but the planned new listing will move trading from the over-the-counter Nasdaq market to the New York Stock Exchange.

American interest has grown in recent years with the strengthening of Glaxo's position in the US drugs market following the success of its

now famous Zantac, anti-ulcer drug. The New York listing, therefore, can only enhance the popularity of Glaxo in the eyes of US investors and should, at the same time, whet British fund managers' appetites, particularly with a Tokyo listing also in the pipeline.

Analysts at Morgan Stanley, the broker, forecast that Glaxo share price could rise to £18 or even £20 if the Conservatives are re-elected, when overseas buyers may rush in to buy quality British stocks.

Reports concerning the sale of insurance interests of Hogg Robinson refuse to lie down and fresh speculative buying of Hogg's shares yesterday lifted them 5p to a new peak of 483p.

Fenchurch Insurance, part of the Guinness Peat financial group, is said to be acquiring Hogg's insurance broking side in a deal worth about £80 million. This would leave Hogg as primarily a travel and estate agency group and give the board plenty of cash to expand these activities.

In the past, Hogg has been subjected to vague takeover rumours with the Trustee Savings Bank, still flush with £1.5 billion cash from its successful flotation, often mentioned as a possible bidder. TSB shares have shown signs of increased activity of late with dealers believing that

an acquisition of some sort must now be on the cards. Paterson Zochonis, the holding company with interests in the manufacture of toiletries which include Cussons Imperial Leather among its brands, took a turn for the worse, as its shares fell 30p to 385p. This followed the board's statement that profit estimates for the year have had to be downgraded by about £5 million to £6 million.

Shares of Stone International, the mass transit systems maker, were suspended at 110p yesterday pending an announcement.

There is talk of a bid on the way with rival FKI Electricals being tipped as a possible predator. At these levels, Stone is capitalized at about £38 million.

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TEMPUS

Hill Samuel is slow but safe

On the face of it, Hill Samuel's results were disappointing. The stock market clearly thought so, marking the shares down 10p to 492p.

On closer inspection, and particularly compared with other Big Bang stocks, the figures look pedestrian but fairly safe.

Hill Samuel owes this partly to its build-up of non-banking activities over the past few years. This has paid dividends in terms of stabilizing earnings over the turbulent Big Bang period.

For the first time, the group's profits owe more to non-banking (including investment management) than to merchant banking activities.

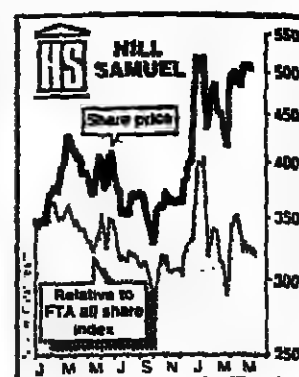
The drop in merchant banking profits is what the stock market chose to focus on. Because it covers the Big Bang period, the result must be treated tentatively, and in comparison with the experience of Kleinwort Benson and Mercury International, it is not too bad.

Over the whole period, trading profits have nearly matched operating costs — a reasonable record especially for relative newcomers to market-making.

The results do nothing to banish the spectre of a takeover. The shareholding structure remains unstable and growth in earnings per share (45.5p) has slowed down to 3 per cent.

However well-intentioned NZI may be, Larry Adler must be assumed to be willing to play pass-the-parcel with his 5 per cent share. None of the other large shareholders looks like a long-term investor.

Hill Samuel seems content simply to watch and wait on events. To an extent it has no choice, since to go out looking for defenders would be a tacit admission of weakness. Paradoxically, too much caution, or reliance on the Bank of England's obstructive abilities, might prove a high risk game.



Lonrho

Lonrho, which often complains it is undervalued in the City, should not have far to go to find the reasons. To dump an interim profits statement on the market whose lack of detail is appalling, and then not to give any real amplification of what lies behind the figures (as most groups do), is no way to win friends and influence people.

There was only one word in City circles yesterday to describe the interim profits statement — "disappointing". The best may well be yet to come when the second half shows the fruits of coffee crops, the tourist season and recently stronger metal prices. But in the meantime, investors are left nursing a pre-tax profit of £76.1 million against £71.1 million, with net earnings only up from 10.6p to 10.7p a share.

Given its wide spread of interests, much more had been expected. Lonrho, as an operator of 800 companies in 46 countries, insists it has given a good account of itself, and forecasts trading for the year will be "handily exceeded" last year's results. But year-end City forecasts have been downgraded and if £200 million plus had been been the earlier thought (after £165.1 million in 1986) only £182 million is now expected.

The shares were 13p weaker at 285p yesterday and are no give-away even on yield considerations.

Their saving grace in the short term will be if gold and platinum, where Lonrho is well represented, enjoys a good run.

Sparkling SNC

Just to make the point that the jobbers' mystique is not an anachronism post Big Bang, Smith New Court has produced sparkling results well ahead of expectations. The second half was especially strong.

The results could not have been better timed: they soften the blow of a substantial fund-raising exercise which SNC needs to finance its rapid expansion in domestic and international markets. Although expensive, the strategy of broadening the earnings base is essential if SNC is to hold its own in an increasingly competitive marketplace. SNC has a sizeable presence in the Pacific Basin and a growing exposure to Europe and the United States. The contribution to profits is useful.

In line with expectations SNC's domestic market share fell as new entrants made their presence felt, but

according to estimates it is back up at least to 20 per cent. And this is on higher volumes.

By taking over an investment trust, SNC raises more than by conventional means. Critics will point to the recent incidence of cash raising exercises but at least shareholdings are not diluted. And an attractive new convertible has its charms.

Opinion varies wildly as to the likely outcome for the year — forecasting profits for this essentially opportunistic business is hazardous — but the year has started well. SNC still has potential and appears to be doing rather better than its detractors care to admit. It also has decent management.

The shares rose ahead of the results and they are now up with events. Speculative interest will recur, a prospect which makes them an interesting hold.

"The Board expects an excellent full year"

R W Rowland, Chief Executive

Lonrho presents its interim figures for 1986/87.

As in previous years, profits in the second half will come through more strongly. The Board expects an excellent full year.

The second interim dividend has effectively been increased by 10% as a dividend of 4p per share has been declared on the increased share capital following the 1 for 10 capitalisation issue.

The quality of your Group's balance sheet has been enhanced with shareholders' funds increased to £623 million and cash balances in excess of £247 million.

The use of liquid resources rather than share dilution to acquire income producing assets of high quality, is exemplified by two recent substantial purchases.

The newly acquired oil business in the United States is doing very well under the experienced leadership of Mr Robert O Anderson.

In April we announced the purchase of an 80% interest in Ruhrgas AG, a major German glass manufacturer. It is our stated intention to expand the Group's interests in Northern Europe.

The Today newspaper continues to improve in quality, if not yet in profitability.

The year so far has been full of opportunity for Lonrho and the underlying strength of the shares is acknowledged by the market. Lonrho shares will be offered on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in June.

We expect that trading for the full year will handsomely exceed that of last year.

Yours sincerely,
R W Rowland

4 June 1987

The unaudited results of the Lonrho Group of Companies in respect of the six months ended 31 March 1987 are as follows:—

	6 months to 31 March 1987	6 months to 31 March 1986
Turnover	£m 1,370.2	£m 1,266.0
Profit before tax	76.1	71.1
Tax	35.2	30.1
Minority interests	4.8	6.3
Profit attributable to shareholders before extraordinary items	36.1	34.7
Earnings per share	10.7p	10.6p

Notes:

- The Group's share at the turnover of associates for the six months ended 31 March 1987 was £22.4m (1986—£27.7m) and is excluded from the above.
- Profit before tax includes profits from associates of £17.2m (1986—£13.4m).
- Tax charge: because of the incidence of accelerated capital allowances, the tax charge provided at the half year can only be estimated.
- Earnings per share have been adjusted for the capitalisation issue on 24 April 1987.
- Extraordinary charges—£4.0m (1986—profit £4.9m).

Dividend

The Board has declared a second interim dividend of 4.00p (1986—4.00p) per share for payment on 1 October 1987 to shareholders on the Register at 28 August 1987. This dividend is in addition to the first interim dividend of 1.00p (1986—1.00p) per share declared on 31 January 1987 and paid on 6 April 1987. The cost of the first and second interim dividends amounts to £17.5m (1986—£14.9m).

LONRHO

LONRHO Plc, CHEAPSIDE HOUSE, 13

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Motoring by Clifford Webb

Citroen scores for practicality

If there is a more practical car than the Citroen BX, I have yet to meet it. It is also a good looking. There have been practical cars before, but almost all of them were clad in unattractive utilitarian bodies. With its almost unique combination of practicality and looks it is not surprising the BX has boosted Citroen's UK sales to record levels.

But this is no technologically starved, basically equipped "people mover". Although conceived from the outset to counter Citroen's traditional image as over-



Citroen BX Estate: floor-level opening for easy loading at the back

Vital statistics

Model: Citroen BX19TR5 auto
Price: £9,325
Engine: 1905 cc 4 cylinder
Performance: 0 to 62 mph 11.8 secs, max speed 110 mph
Official consumption: Urban, 29.7 mpg, 55 mph, 46.3 mpg and 75 mph 36.2 mpg
Length: 14.4 ft
Insurance: Group 5

engineered and expensive to maintain, the BX still features the company's unique self-leveling, three position hydro-pneumatic suspension, single spoke steering wheel for unobstructed viewing of the instruments, power operated

dise brakes, and anti-dive suspension geometry.

The star of the range is the estate. Although only a few inches longer than the saloon overall, the extended roof with its streamlined luggage carrying rails and protective rubber strips gives the BX a sleeker outline. But it is the huge square-shaped cargo space with easy loading bumper level floor which attracts most attention in supermarket car

parks. It provides 30.4 cubic feet of entirely usable space and this can be extended to 63.7 cubic feet with the rear seats folded.

The estate version I drove recently was the 1.9 litre BX19TR5 with Peugeot-Citroen's four-speed automatic transmission. The front seats - covered in thick, coarsely woven tweed with a surprisingly soft feel - are among the best I have en-

countered in a mass produced car.

The handling is exceptional for an estate and because of the self-leveling suspension the ride varies little between loaded and empty. My one disappointment was the noisy engine. It does the job well enough but insists on being heard at all speeds. I should be inclined to invest in additional sound-deadening material for the engine bay.

Subaru modifies Turbo

On the outside, the latest version of Subaru's flagship, the XT Turbo Coupé, is little altered. However, beneath the minor cosmetic touches to the front and rear styling, the 1987 XT has been changed significantly to meet criticism of Subaru's "on demand" four-wheel drive system in a 120 mph-plus car.

Announcing the changes this week, International Motors, the West Bromwich-based UK concessionaires, revealed that the 1.8 turbo-charged coupé now has permanent four-wheel drive. The driver will no longer be able to choose between two-wheel and four-wheel drive by flicking a switch. And that is it should be in a high-powered car.

Subaru pioneered "on demand" 4x4 cars in Britain 10 years ago, and they have proved extremely popular with motorists who have an



Subaru 4WD XT Turbo now has permanent four-wheel drive

occasional need of an extra pair of driving wheels to cope with winter conditions.

But they all had the same rather docile, flat four engine. The introduction of turbo-charging changed the 4x4's role. Instead of finding grip in poor conditions it was now needed to transmit all that extra power to the road.

Permanent 4x4 is achieved through a lightweight, compact unit which locates the centre differential inside the housing of the normal front drive transaxle. The centre differential can be locked manually for very slippery conditions by a solenoid operated vacuum servo with a switch on the dash.

Two versions are being imported, a five-speed manual and a very sophisticated four-

speed automatic which makes extensive use of electronics. Acceleration and fuel consumption of both versions have been improved with

micro-computer control of injection and ignition. The manual costs £14,499 (up £900) and the automatic £15,498 (up £1,200).

Rover launches the Studio 2 Metro

A team of two men and a woman employed in Studio 2 at Austin-Rover's design department at Canley near Coventry, have had their work recognized in an unusual way. A new limited edition of the latest "quiet Metro" has just gone on sale complete with Studio 2 decals on doors and tailgate.

By taking the normally one-litre powered three-door City X and installing the 1.3 engine in a steel-grey metallic

body with a diagonal green stripe, Rover has created an additional eye-catching model.

Sports-style front seats are colour coded to match the body and a radio is included.

Rover says only 3,000 Studio 2s will be sold in the UK with another 3,230 going to European markets. It costs £5,548 compared with £5,562 for the standard five-door 1.3 City X.

Sounding the alarm for car thieves

By Mark Nelson
Incidents of thefts from or of vehicles in England and Wales now exceed 850,000 a year, while some £150 million are paid in claims by insurers. Statistics like these bring home the woefully inadequate security of the average automobile and the need to improve a car's protection against theft.

Fortunately the outlook is becoming brighter, despite the ever-increasing incidence of car theft, thanks to improved built-in security and a variety of sophisticated accessory devices which can be bought to protect a car and its contents.

For too long the average family car has been pitifully easy to open, either by cable destruction of the locks or by prying wires under rubber window seals and raising the interior catches. Motor manufacturers are now realizing that improved security systems are a viable sales aid and have improved the security of their locks. Ford are installing "tumbler" locks on some models, while Vauxhall are using special "dimpled" keys which cannot be substituted by

normal lock-picking tools. Interior lock catches on many cars now disappear when locked and have no projections for a piece of coat hanger wire to grip. Renault has installed an infra-red keyless locking system on some vehicles, and central locking is standard on many new cars.

Excellent as these devices on new cars are, they are of no help to owners of older vehicles, who can, however, install alarms to deter thieves.

Many thieves work in broad daylight and are looking for easy pickings: commonly they break into vehicles to steal bags and cameras left on seats or will drive a vehicle away to a quiet spot in order to remove high-value audio accessories.

Clearly it pays to conceal items in the boot if possible and a Krooklock will deter the casual thief intent on making a quick getaway. The better in-car audio equipment now has anti-tamper fitting and electronic locking, and the professional thieves will not waste their time on these.

There is, however, no substitute for an

effective alarm, which should be fitted by a professional installer. It will generally cost between £60 and £200, and should use ultrasonic sound to detect motion in the car.

It will not rely only on switches on doors (many thieves remove the rear window to enter) but will detect any flow of current from the car battery (courtesy lights and ignition). Concealed switches on the bonnet and boot will detect unauthorised tampering here and the car's owner will have a secret infra-red device to disable the protection.

To deter the thief the alarm should flash the lights and sound not only the horn but also an internal siren, preferably deafening to the threshold of pain. The thief should be given no chance to disable the alarm.

In summary, an effective alarm installation must give thieves no clue how it works and anticipate all kinds of entry. Systems incorporating the advanced features mentioned are supplied by Harry Moss, Lisswood, Coburn and other manufacturers and should be considered essential equipment.

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